WITH SUPPLEMENT.] GRAND CHRISTMAS NUMBER. [PRICE TWOPENCE.

No. 2272—Vol. 87

THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER AND ILLUSTRATED TIMES

December 10, 1904

Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.

London: Printed and Published at the Office, 198, Strand, in the Parish of St. Clement Danes, in the County of London, by The Illustrated London News and Sketch, Limited, 198, Strand, aforesaid.

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To Correspondents.

ALL Artistic and Literary Communications for this Journal should be addressed to "The EDITOR of THE PENNY ILLUSTRATED PAPER," 198, Strand, London, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the sender, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

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"A MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

HOW the years slip round! Here we are again (as the pantomime clown says), within a few days of another Christmas. Once more I have metaphorically to extend a hand and shake those of my readers with all the cordiality and warmth imaginable. Pity 'tis, I always think, that this hand-shaking is not actual and literal. For there can be no doubt about it that the friendship which grows between an editor (especially of an old paper like the *P.I.P.*) and his readers is a very real thing, and one that ever causes me the keenest regret at my inability to acknowledge except through the medium of cold type. But any other means of thanking my readers is denied to me, for they are scattered over the whole face of the world—North, South, East, and West. Everywhere, wherever the English language is spoken, the *P.I.P.* is to be found. Week after week, year after year, tens of thousands of good folk here at home thoughtfully post out to their friends in foreign lands or the Colonies copies of this paper. This I know from the very large number of letters which reach me from all parts of the world—from Canada they come, from the Cape, from far-away Australia and New Zealand—from everywhere. And a great pleasure it is to me to receive them, since they ever serve to remind me that the *P.I.P.* is read (and liked) all the world over. In connection with this subject I recall with interest that last Christmas at least a score of readers in England wrote me saying they had ordered the *P.I.P.* to be sent for a year to some relative in the Colonies as a sort of Christmas-card—in which action is contained a suggestion which may commend itself to other readers. But enough of that. Let me, in the most hearty manner in the world, wish all readers of *P.I.P.* the happiest and brightest Christmas they have ever spent.

THE STORY OF THE WAR

RECORDED FROM WEEK TO WEEK.

Position at Port Arthur

THE *Telegraph's* correspondent at Chifu reports that the Japanese have succeeded in mounting big guns at the fort of 203 Mètre Hill. They have also succeeded in making secure the occupation of Akasakayama Hill, three hundred yards south of 203 Mètre Hill. In the fight for 203 Mètre Hill the Japanese suffered severely; nevertheless, with the aid of a high-angle bombardment from gun-boats in Pigeon Bay and heavy reinforcements of reserves, they ultimately succeeded in gaining the fort. On the 2nd and 3rd inst., states a *Standard* telegram from Tokio, the Russians are reported to have made repeated desperate attempts to retake the hill, but it is believed the Japanese occupation is so firmly established as to defy any assault.

Constant Skirmishes at the Sha-Ho.

A Tokio telegram to the *Standard* says that constant but unimportant skirmishes are reported from the Sha-ho, where the Russians are manifesting feverish uneasiness concerning a possible forward movement by the Japanese armies.

It is reported that a dispatch from General Kuropatkin says that on Dec. 2 Russian scouts arrived at Dapindouchane, having seen nothing of the enemy. On the left flank patrols found seventeen dead Japanese in a nude condition, probably having been pillaged by the natives. On the night of Dec. 3 two Japanese companies took the offensive, but were repulsed by a fusillade. The Russian losses were two soldiers killed and four wounded, while many Japanese dead and wounded were left in front of the Russian position. General Sakharoff telegraphs that Japanese volunteers attempted to destroy the Russian wire entanglements before the village of Linchipu, but a Russian fusillade repulsed them. One Japanese who was wounded was captured.

Reported Capture of Japanese Guns.

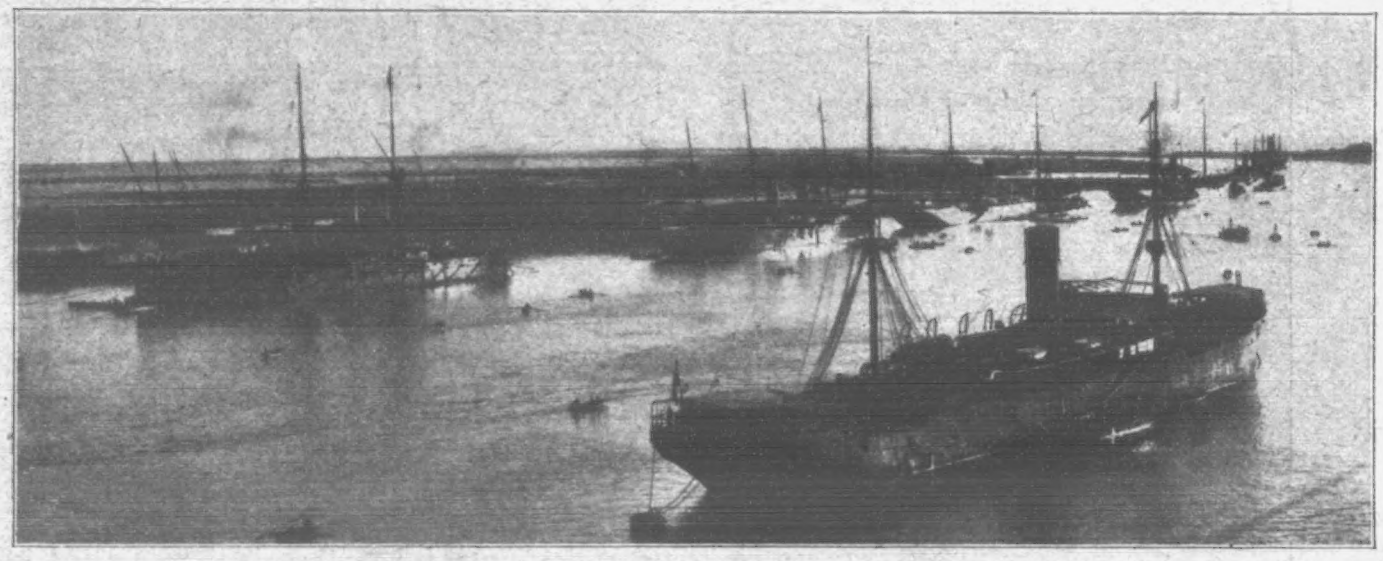
The *Russ* correspondent alleges that a detachment of Don Cossacks captured eight guns on Friday night south of Lidiantoun. This report, it appears from a St. Petersburg telegram to the *Petit Parisien*, came through a Chinaman, who had recruited into a Cossack regiment.

Russia's Naval Plans.

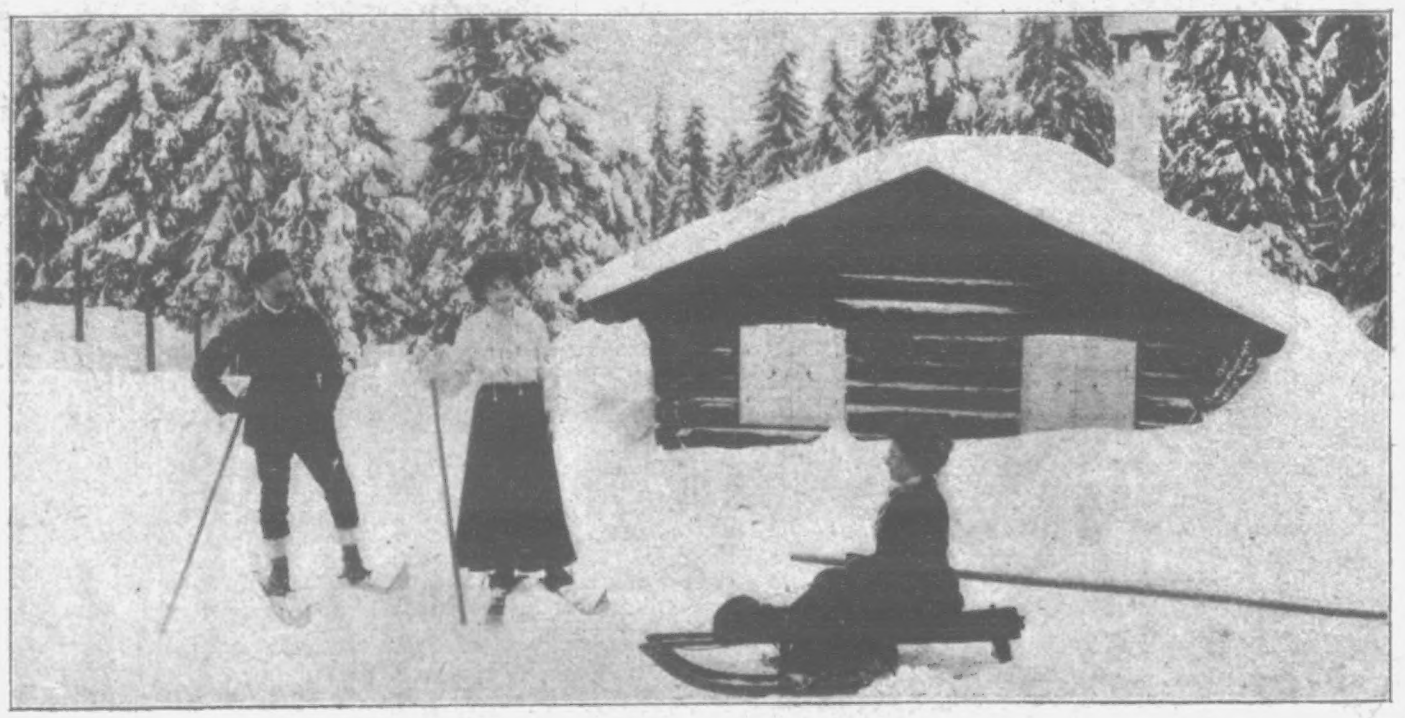
It is reported that on Saturday six war-ships, seven torpedo-boats, and nine transports, forming the Russian Naval Division under the command of Admiral Fölkersahm, anchored outside the roadstead at the French port of Jibutil. An Odessa telegram to the *Standard* gives the report that the Russian Admiralty is becoming very anxious regarding the uncertain designs of the Japanese Admirals. The Admiralty Staff at St. Petersburg is said to be in possession of intelligence pointing to an intention on Admiral Togo's part to engage the Baltic Fleet before it reaches the Yellow Sea, and indicating that Admiral Uriu, with a flying squadron of fast cruisers and destroyers, has been commissioned to harass, cut off, and sink the coal-transports. Telegrams from St. Petersburg attach little importance to the newspaper reports there concerning the Black Sea Fleet, and state that Admiral Wirenius declares that, so far as he knows, the idea of Russia making representations to the Powers in order to secure the opening of the Dardanelles to her Black Sea Fleet has never been entertained. A Constantinople telegram to the *Standard* points out the fact, to which attention has already been called, that the Black Sea Fleet, by reason of its low speed and insignificant coal capacity, would be little fitted for service in the Far East. A St. Petersburg telegram to the *Standard* asserts that Mr. C. R. Flint, formerly naval purchasing agent for the United States Government, was at Moscow on Tuesday, and started on Wednesday for Constantinople. It is reported that he brought with him a letter of credit on Rothschilds for a sum of about £7,000,000. It is said that this sum represents the amount payable for those vessels of the Argentine and Chilian fleets of which the Russian Government is said to have been negotiating the purchase. According to current explanation, the object of Mr. Flint's visit to Constantinople is to endeavour to arrange for the use of the Turkish flag by these vessels subsequent to their purchase by Russia. The Tokio correspondent of the *Times* says that the attitude of France toward the Baltic Fleet attracts special attention there, it being contended that if she continues her present loose interpretation of the duties of a neutral Power the Russian ships will find convenient bases at Saigon and Kwang-chu. The Japanese Government is believed, states a Tokio telegram to the *Standard*, to have addressed a protest to Germany and Portugal against the use of their colonial ports by vessels of the Russian Fleet for coaling purposes.

Officers Ordered Back to Russia.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Echo de Paris* sends under reserve the following account of a curious incident in the Baltic Fleet's



GENERAL VIEW OF THE BALTIC FLEET AT PORT SAID.



CHRISTMAS IN NORWAY: A WAYSIDE MEETING.

THE LATEST PORTRAITS OF THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN.—SEE THIS WEEK'S "SKETCH."

voyage which is being related in the Russian capital. Three officers having been discovered intoxicated, Admiral Rozhdestvensky, after reading their captain's report upon their behaviour, determined to punish them in exemplary fashion. The officers were accordingly placed in a boat, provided with money and food, and left near the African coast, with orders from Admiral Rozhdestvensky to return to Russia.

Japan's Capacity to Bear War Burdens. On Saturday Count Katsura the Premier, in united national support which they knew they had behind them. Baron Sone, the Minister of Finance, said that since the outbreak of hostilities the people had shown an unprecedented power and capacity to bear the burdens of war. Turning to figures, Baron Sone said that the War Budget totalled 780,000,000 yen (£78,000,000), including provision for the interest on outstanding loans. It would be necessary in 1905 to borrow only 450,000,000 yen (£45,000,000).

with a polite note complaining that their friends the enemy kept the cave in a dirty state, which was bad for the health of both parties. The remonstrance was not in vain, for next night the Russians swept and garnished the place. They also left a rouble behind them in the cave, with a note saying that they had heard the Japanese treated prisoners badly, even killing them, and the Russians asked for an explanation. In reply to this the Japanese, on the following evening, left a

MISS MADGE VINCENT,

Who will be Principal Boy in "Red Riding Hood" at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill.

MISS RACHEL LOWE,

Who will be Principal Boy in "Aladdin" at the Kennington Theatre.

MISS GEORGINA MIDDLETON,

Who will be the Principal Girl in 'Aladdin" at the Kennington Theatre.

MISS EMPSIE BOWMAN,

Who will be the Principal Girl at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith.

FOUR PANTOMIME FAVOURITES WHOM YOU MUST SEE.

the Japanese House of Representatives, congratulated the Army and Navy on the success which they had achieved, and expressed his sympathy with the soldiers and sailors who had been subjected first to the intense heat and then to the freezing cold. Despite all difficulties and dangers they had worked gallantly, and in their efforts they had been strongly aided by the

"A Cave International Post-Office."

A telegram received by the *Standard* from its correspondent with Marshal Oyama's forces reports: "A hill with a cave on our front is occupied in the daytime by a Japanese picket and at night by a Russian picket. The Japanese picket, before withdrawing the other evening, left a bottle of brandy behind, note for the Russians, in which they declared that, as a matter of fact, the Russian prisoners in Japan were having a very good time; and, by way of documentary evidence thereof, some photographs were left with the note, showing Japanese soldiers attending on the prisoners, giving them cigarettes, and so forth. This hill cave now serves as an International Post-office."

Illustrated London News.

"'Antipon' not only speedily absorbs and throws out of the system all superabundant adipose matter, but increases strength and vitality."

The Lady's Pictorial.

"To reduce superabundant fat is of vital importance. The wonderful new fat-absorbent known as 'Antipon' performs this work promptly, safely, and with permanent effect. It goes to the very root of the evil; the cure is complete and permanent."

The Sketch.

"This pleasant, rational, and most efficacious remedy may be warmly recommended to stout persons of both sexes, as much for health's sake as for the attainment of perfect elegance of figure."

A Sheffield Trained Nurse writes:—

"I have used 'Antipon' in the case of the very fattest woman I have ever nursed. The result has been marvellous. She is getting smaller and beautifully less every day; and the best of it is she is in perfect health now, where before she had all sorts of troubles."

An Oxfordshire Surgeon writes:—

"I am trying it ('Antipon') in a serious case of a man weighing 16 stone, short, and with heart affection. He already has lost three stone."

NONE NEED BE FAT.

What "Antipon" Can Do.

"What is 'Antipon'?" is a question one often hears now; and it is as well that our stout readers should have a correct answer, instead of a misleading account of the world-famous fat-absorbent which has awakened so much interest in scientific and other circles.

"Antipon," in fact, is in many respects unique as a curative principle. In the first place, it positively cures—radically and permanently cures—the distressing disease of obesity or abnormal fatness. It cures by the gradual absorption and elimination from the body of the useless and dangerous packing of fat that has formed round the internal organs, and also of the subcutaneous fat that has developed into what is vulgarly called a "corporation," into flabby cheeks and double chin, into gross and puffy limbs and massive hips. All this unnecessary, unhealthy, and ugly growth is destroyed and expelled from the system with surprising rapidity by "Antipon," with life-long benefit to the user.

So rapid is the action of this wonderful cure that the quantity of superfluous adipose matter destroyed within a day and a night after taking the first dose amounts in weight to something between 8 oz. and 3 lb. This is the first result in quite ordinary instances of stoutness; in more pronounced cases the decrease will sometimes approach 4 lb., as the infallible weighing-machine test has proved. After the initial reduction the decrease is sure and steady. Day by day the scales will tell their tale of diminution until in an incredibly short space of time correct standard proportions of weight and measurement are the assured reward. The doses should then be discontinued. There is no further need for "Antipon's" aid. The desired end has been attained, and the cure may be confidently regarded as lasting. During the course of cure it is quite needless to torture one's self with any unusual abstention from the pleasures of the table, so long as ordinary prudence and temperance are the guiding rules. Of course one must not, so to speak, *feed* the fat. No person of sense, under any kind of treatment, would indulge in fatty foods to excess. Apart from such rational precautions no hard-and-fast restrictions are required. "Antipon" does its beneficent work solely by itself, and requires no aid from semi-starvation, sweating, purging, or other weakening processes.

"Antipon," on the contrary, is of the greatest value as a tonic; it encourages and increases appetite, and the desire for wholesome food must be satisfied; for it is part of the work of this splendid medicine to promote the growth of new muscular tissue to compensate for the loss of bulk; to give renewed health and vigour in place of weakness and flabbiness, and to strengthen body, nerve, and brain. Think what a vital difference this exchange must make to one's well-being, energy, and vitality!

"Antipon" is a pleasantly bitter liquid, resembling in colour a rich light red wine. It is guaranteed free from any mineral or other dangerous substance, and could be taken by the most delicate person with advantage to health. Its ingredients are known to and approved by a number of medical men to whom they were originally submitted, and have received their unqualified approval and support.

Our stout friends may obtain "Antipon" of chemists, stores, &c., in bottles, price 2s. 6d. and 4s. 6d., from stock or on order; or, should any difficulty arise, it may be had (on sending remittance) direct from the sole manufacturers, the "Antipon" Company, 13, Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C.

THE WEEK'S NEWS.

The King's Movements.—King Edward left Sandringham for London on Monday afternoon. His Majesty, on reaching St. Pancras, drove direct to the Agricultural Hall, for the opening of the Cattle Show. On Tuesday he left town for Castle Rising, Norfolk, on a shooting visit to Lord and Lady Farquhar. According to present arrangements the King and Queen will come to London on Saturday, to be entertained at luncheon by the King of Portugal at the Portuguese Legation.

Service Items.—The Duke of Connaught, as Inspector-General of Forces, is to make a tour of Inspection at Gibraltar, Malta, and Egypt in January. The Duchess will accompany her husband.—Lieut.-Colonel C. Laurie, D.S.O., has been appointed to the command of the 3rd Battalion King's Own Scottish Borderers, in succession to Colonel Witham, C.M.G.—The 1st Battalion of the "Buffs" arrived at Southampton this week after twenty years' foreign service. They will be stationed at Dover with the 2nd Battalion of the regiment until February next year, when the latter will be transferred to Salisbury Plain.—In his official report to the War Office on the Essex manœuvres, Sir John French severely criticises the present method of picketing cavalry horses, the uselessness of which was exemplified by the Southampton stampede. Sir John regrets that the manœuvres were robbed of their real value by the fact that root fields and certain areas were forbidden ground. This, and the second fact that the place of landing was settled for the attacking force, made the introducing of service conditions impossible.—In consequence of communications from the Poor Law authorities throughout the kingdom as to the number of discharged soldiers applying for relief, the War Office has issued an order that men entitled to do so shall re-enlist under Section D of the Army Reserve. This applies to men who have been discharged during the past two years, and who hold a parchment certificate containing a promise to re-enlist if required within two years, or any shorter time from date of discharge. The men should apply immediately to their late commanding officers.—The building of the Union Jack Club in Waterloo Road is to be commenced shortly after Christmas, and the amount of donations to its funds, promised and received, now reaches over £39,000. More than another £20,000 will be required before the club can be completed and ready for use.—Rear-Admiral William Hannam Henderson has been promoted to Vice-Admiral, and Captain Thomas MacGill, C.B., to Rear-Admiral.—In order to test the justification for the complaints made in the Navy concerning the inefficiency of the cook ratings, an interesting experiment is to be carried out at Portsmouth. A ship's cook and two cook's mates belonging to the Naval Depôt are to be embarked on the *Narcissus*, the Gunnery School ship, where they will cook for the classes under instruction. In order to have a means of comparison, the cook ratings are not to interfere with the food of the ship's company, which will be prepared in the usual way.

Photo. Thiele

MR. JAMES WELCH,

WHO IS TO SUCCEED THE LATE DAN LENO AT DRURY LANE.

The Penny Bank Failure.—In connection with the failure of Maw's Penny Bank at Needham Market, a munificent gift was announced last week. Mr. Edgar Speyer, of the London firm of Speyer Brothers, after going carefully into the accounts and also the Official Receiver's report, consented to make up such sum as is still required to pay in full all those creditors who desire to participate in his beneficence. He has therefore arranged that the accounts of all up to £50 shall be opened with the Post Office Savings Bank, and those above that amount with Messrs. Barclay's Bank. As the Relief Committee had raised £2600, the balance of the deficit, which Mr. Speyer is so generously furnishing, amounts to about £5500.

The Hooley-Lawson Case.—The trial of Mr E. T. Hooley and Mr. H. J. Lawson was continued at the Old Bailey throughout last week. The defendants were charged with conspiring to defraud Mr. A. J. Paine, and with other offences arising out of the transactions of the Electric Tramways Construction and Maintenance Company Limited. When the case was resumed on Monday, Mr. Stephen Cottrell gave technical evidence as to the conversion of the Blackpool Electric Tramways (South) Company, and other witnesses were called to show that on Oct. 3, 1903, the company's balance was under £16. Mr. John Baker, chartered accountant, stated that he prepared a profit-and-loss account of the Construction Company. The amount payable to Mr. Lawson "for special services rendered," was £64,170. From the balance-sheet it appeared that £32,775 of that sum was owing to Mr. Lawson. After several police officers had described their "finds" of documents on and after Mr. Hooley's arrest, Mr. F. Davey, of the Official Receiver's department, traced the history of the Construction Company. He stated that, so far as he could discover from the books, no dividend was ever declared at all. A 6 per cent. dividend and a bonus of 1s. 2d. per share would amount on the sum of £500,000, the only capital mentioned, to £60,000. According to the profit-and-loss account, the company made a profit of £63,823. No portion of that was cash profit. There was an actual cash loss of £32,676.

Engineer's Divorce Suit.—In the Divorce Court, Sir Francis Jeune heard the petition of Mr. Richard Walter Wright, a railway engineer and contractor, on the ground of his wife's alleged misconduct with an Italian medical student named Pico. Mr. Lawson Walton, K.C., and Mr. Bargrave Deane, K.C., appeared for the petitioner; Mr. Rawlinson, K.C., for the respondent. The parties were married on June 4, 1889, in South Africa, where petitioner was then engaged in railway enterprises. The union proved an unhappy one, and Mr. and Mrs. Wright were separated by a decree in the South African Courts, the wife receiving an annual allowance of £400. It was alleged that Mrs. Wright, while staying in Switzerland, became unduly intimate with the co-respondent. The charge was denied. In cross-examination, Mr. Wright stated that Messrs. Osborn and Osborn, the solicitors, and Slater's Detective Agency were instructed on his behalf by two friends of his. Since January 1903 his payments to Slater's had amounted to £1400. That, of course, did not include Osborn's bill. Mr. Osborn went to Lausanne, where Mrs. Wright was staying, while Mr. Roper, one of Slater's men, was also there. He knew that Osborn and Roper obtained a statement from a man named Perrari, which the latter afterwards swore was false. Mr. Rawlinson, K.C., suggested that Mr. Wright was bringing this petition in order to get rid of the wife's allowance of £400. Mr. Wright's counsel replied that whatever the result of the case, the petitioner intended to make provision for his wife. Sir Francis Jeune said he thought it ridiculous to suppose that anyone who petitioned for divorce did so to get rid of monetary obligations. The evidence of several hotel witnesses, taken on commission at Lausanne, Switzerland, was read, and the case adjourned.

THEATRICAL LAW-SUIT: SPECIAL "P.I.P." SKETCHES IN THE LAW COURTS.

Theatrical Custom.—The question of the custom of the theatrical profession with regard to the dismissal of the manager of a touring company was involved in an action brought by Mr. George Sydenham against Mr. Tom B. Davis to recover damages for wrongful dismissal. In the defence it was pleaded that by the custom of the theatrical profession a fortnight's notice was sufficient. Several witnesses were called, with the result that the jury found for the amount claimed, £93, and judgment was given accordingly, stay of execution being refused.

One Farthing Damages for Libel.—In the King's Bench Division, before Mr. Justice Lawrance and a special jury, an action was brought by Mr. Frederick James Philpot, an estate agent and a member of the Ilford District Council, against Mr. Robert Gilderson, formerly a member of the District Council, and the publishers of the *Ilford Recorder*, to recover damages for an alleged libel contained in a letter written by Mr. Gilderson and published in the *Ilford Recorder* in February 1903. The plaintiff alleged that the letter imputed that he had made false charges against the Ilford School Board and its officers, and that he had been guilty of a piece of jobbery in getting a man from Croydon appointed as a clerk of the works. In cross-examination by Mr. Wallace, K.C., who appeared for the defendant Gilderson, the plaintiff admitted that he had charged the old School Board with altering the minutes, but had not accused them of misappropriating stamps or of bribery. He denied having invited members of the Board to step outside, where he could deal with them. Cross-examined by Mr. McCall, K.C., for the *Ilford Recorder*, plaintiff said he might have described some of the members of the School Board as "blockheads." He had also described them as "reptiles, eels, and vipers," but that was only a little bit of fun. Worse had been said about himself.

SPECIAL P.I.P. SKETCHES IN THE DIVORCE COURT.

THE RELIGIOUS "DANCERS" AT CAMBERWELL: THE REV. OBADIAH KENT-WHITE, ONE OF THE LEADERS.

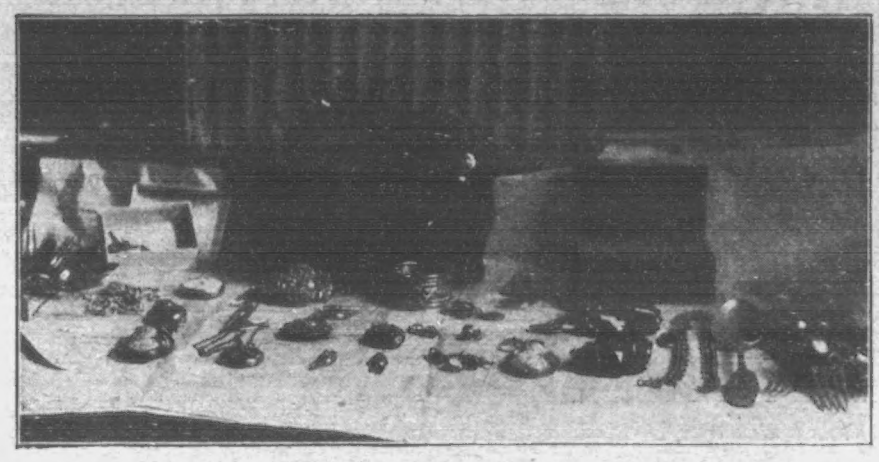
THE RELIGIOUS "DANCERS" AT CAMBERWELL: THE REV. H. L. HARVEY AND HIS WIFE, LEADERS OF THE STRANGE SECT.

He had received a present of spirits, but did not know the sender. When he discovered that Mr. Randell-Moore had sent it he went and gave him a good blowing-up. Further evidence having been given in support of the plaintiff's case, Mr. R. Gilderson, one of the defendants, went into the box. At the conclusion of his examination the jury intimated that they had heard enough of the case. They returned a verdict for Mr. Philpot, assessing the damages at one farthing. The Judge ordered that each side should pay its own costs.

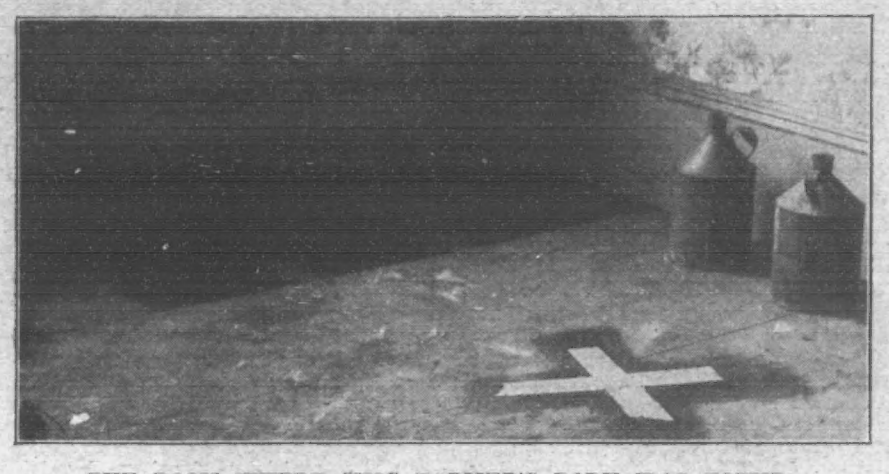
Sidcup Gamekeeper Acquitted.—At the Kent Assizes last week, John Curtis, a gamekeeper, was acquitted of the charge of the manslaughter of George Brazier on Oct. 12. Curtis said that he fell down among some bushes, and that on jumping up again his gun went off and accidentally shot Brazier, who had been gathering chestnuts in Lamorbey Wood.

Triple Tragedy at Harringay.—Wightman Road, Harringay, was the scene of a terrible tragedy on Friday morning last week, a man named Arthu-

THE ELECTRIFICATION OF THE "UNDERGROUND" RAILWAY.—SEE THIS WEEK'S "SKETCH."



THE JEWELS BELONGING TO THE LATE MISS FARMER, WHICH WERE DISCOVERED LAST WEEK.



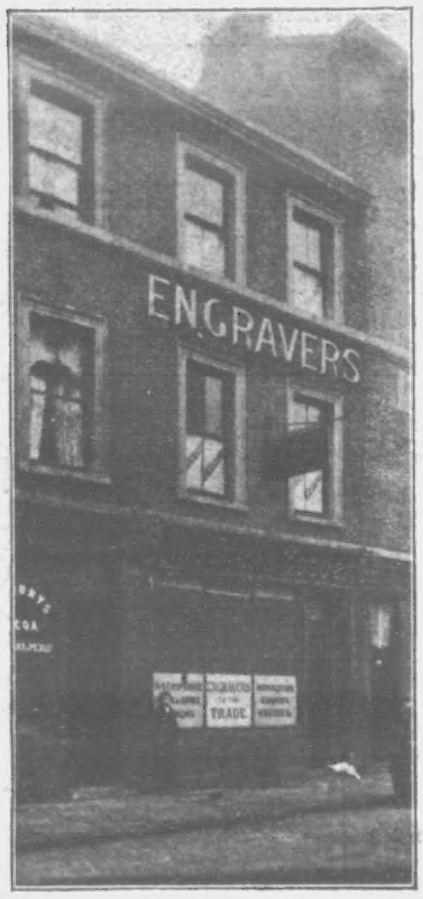
THE ROOM WHERE MISS FARMER'S BODY WAS FOUND,

SHOWING THE BOARD (INDICATED BY A CROSS) UNDER WHICH THE JEWELLERY WAS DISCOVERED.

Yorke murdering two of his children and then committing suicide. Yorke was found lying face downwards on the floor. His two little victims were on the bed, fully dressed, but covered with the bedclothes. All were dead, the cause of death being prussic acid poisoning. A letter written by Yorke intimated that he purposed doing the ghastly deed. Recently he had complained of worry, and his manner for some time past had been rather strange. At the inquest the jury found a verdict of murder and suicide, and added that the murder was caused by domestic trouble.

CHARLES COLLINS,

WHO FOR THE LAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS HAS SWEPT A CROSSING AT PARK STREET, W., CLAIMS TO BE HEIR TO ESTATES VALUED AT £200,000.



NO. 58, SUTTON STREET, CLERKENWELL. THE SCENE OF A DARING BURGLARY LAST WEEK.

Miss Farmer's Jewels Found.—While engaged in cleaning and redecorating the house of Miss Farmer, the victim of the Stepney murder, a workman discovered, beneath a loose board, a quantity of gold, silver, and jewels. The hoard is not of great value, the worth of all the articles being estimated at under twenty pounds. After the discovery the petition to the Home Office, praying for the pardon of Wade and Donovan, the two condemned men, was extensively signed.

The Clerkenwell Outrage.—The perpetrators of the outrage on Colonel Stockall are still at large. A lengthy list of the property stolen from the premises has been issued by the police, and rewards of £100 and £250 are respectively offered for the discovery of the thieves and the recovery of the plunder.

Thrice Tried for Murder.—The third trial of Joseph Fee for the murder of John Flanagan, at Clones, in April 1903, took place last week at the Ulster Assizes. Two trials had previously been held at Monaghan Assizes, but on each occasion the jury disagreed. The case was therefore transferred to Belfast. It will be recalled that the body of the murdered man was discovered at the bottom of a manure heap on Fee's premises eight months after he had been missed. An attempt to prove an alibi failed, and the trial terminated last Saturday in the jury returning a verdict of "Guilty." The Judge passed sentence of death, and Fee was taken from the dock loudly declaring his innocence.

Sentence of Death.—At Hants Assizes, last week, a labourer, named John Tom Burnett, aged forty-nine, was tried for the murder of his wife, Mary Burnett, at Portsmouth. The medical evidence tended to show that the case was one of homicide, and the accused's counsel endeavoured to show that it was really one of suicide. Counsel reminded the jury that the deceased woman had made several attempts on her own life. Counsel for the prosecution interposed, and pointed out that the doctors at the postmortem examination were confident that the injuries could not possibly have been self-inflicted. Sentence of death was passed on Burnett, the jury recommending him to mercy.

OUR SUPPLEMENT.

IT affords us the greatest pleasure to be able to offer to *P.I.P.* readers the Supplement which accompanies this Number. "Christmas in the Old Times: A Game of Musical Chairs," is an excellent example of the inimitable art of the late Fred Barnard. It brings vividly back to our minds a picture of Yuletide's innocent joys as our grandfathers understood them. The characterisation is admirable, and quite worthy of the man who, in the opinion of many, was the finest illustrator of Dickens that ever lived. Look at the faces in our Supplement, and you will agree with us that each tells its own story. The picture will, we are sure, be thoroughly appreciated.

AT THE ONE-HUNDREDTH COVENT GARDEN FANCY-DRESS BALL LAST FRIDAY.

ON THIS OCCASION EACH LADY ON HER ARRIVAL WAS PRESENTED WITH AN OSTRICH FEATHER FAN.

DANCING IS NOW BEING RECOMMENDED BY DOCTORS AS ONE OF THE BEST EXERCISES FOR THE LIVER.

THE SUGGESTION IS ONE THAT MIGHT WELL BE FOLLOWED AFTER THE CHRISTMAS DINNER.

THE WORLD OF PASTIME.

FOOTBALL.

THERE was a transference of honours in the First Division of the League last Saturday, Sunderland's heavy defeat by Manchester City causing them to drop from first to third place; but there is really nothing in it, and another shuffle of the cards may have to be chronicled after to-morrow (Saturday).

Newcastle United are now on top, and their record is a really fine one, nine victories standing to their credit as the result of fourteen matches played. Small Heath have got through the same number of games, and have also been successful nine times, but they have lost four games against the United's three. Sunderland, Preston North End, Sheffield Wednesday, and the middle division are well up; and the competition, after running nearly half its allotted span, is in a most interesting condition.

The supporters of Woolwich Arsenal would have liked them to beat Small Heath, but they failed to overcome the Birmingham side on the latter's ground. Small Heath want a lot of beating anywhere, and the Plumstead men did exceedingly well in only being defeated by two goals to one. The "Reds" were unable to place their best team in the field. John Dick is down with influenza, and Briercliffe has not yet recovered from his injury.

Preston North End received their first home defeat on Saturday since their return to the First Division of the League. The match was the first of their return fixtures; and their opponents, Aston Villa. The latter were defeated by the North Enders at Birmingham on the first day of the season, so that each side can claim to have beaten the other away from home. On the present occasion the Villans won by three goals to two.

Stoke were at home to the Wanderers of Wolverhampton, and the Potterymen won by two goals to one. Each side was minus one of their regular players, Rouse being away from the Stoke ranks, and E. Smith was unable to turn out for the Wolves, in both cases on account of illness. It was a stubbornly fought game, but the Potters always had a trifle the best of it.

A very hard-fought game resulted from the meeting of Notts County and Sheffield Wednesday at Trent Bridge, but no definite result was arrived at, and the match was drawn at two goals each. Notts played a new outside right in Broughton, who formerly played for the Forest. It was anybody's game all through the ninety minutes, but it was due to the splendid defence of the Wednesday half-backs that the Sheffielders escaped defeat, Crawshaw in particular being in grand form.

Notts Forest opposed the other Sheffield club, the United, at Bramall Lane, and the fine weather, coupled with the prospect of a good game, attracted a big gathering to the "Blades'" enclosure. The United were in splendid form and won with ease by four goals to nil. The two lowest clubs in the League, Middlesbrough and Bury, played a draw of two goals each at the Yorkshire town. The play was never at any time of great class, and a draw was a fitting result.

I have already referred to Manchester City's great victory over Sunderland. So well did the City forwards set about their work that the four goals scored in the first half were obtained in ten minutes. They lost Turnbull after crossing over, but scored one other goal; but when playing ten men Sunderland scored twice, only, however, to be beaten by five goals to two. There were no goals to reward the efforts of Everton and Derby County at Goodison Park, so a pointless draw has to be recorded. It was a capital game, in which the defence always prevailed. The match between Newcastle United and Blackburn Rovers was won by the former by one goal to nil.

Of the Second Division clubs Liverpool lost their unbeaten certificate, Bolton Wanderers scoring a popular victory at Burnden Park by two goals to nil. Bristol City received a bad beating from Gainsborough Trinity, on the latter's ground, the home team winning by four goals to one. West Bromwich Albion beat Lincoln City, Barnsley overcame Leicester Fosse, Manchester United were a goal too good for Doncaster Rovers and Grimsby Town defeated Chesterfield. Of the others, Burslem Port Vale, Blackpool, and Burnley beat Burton United, Glossop, and Bradford City respectively.

The Southern League also furnished its surprises, the defeat of Queen's Park Rangers by Wellingborough being a complete upset of public form, especially as the match was played at Park Royal. Portsmouth just scraped home by a goal to nil from Fulham at Fratton Park. Reading, playing at home, were a goal in front of West Ham when the whistle blew, and Bristol Rovers continued their all-conquering career with a four-to-nil victory over Plymouth Argyle.

Watford, after a hard fight, beat Northampton by two goals to one, and as the result of a heavy-scoring match, Tottenham Hotspur beat Swindon by six goals to three. The games between Brighton and Hove Albion and Luton and Millwall and New Brompton were drawn.

BRENTFORD v. SOUTHAMPTON: BRENTFORD PRESSING.

OLD CARTHUSIANS v. OLD FORESTERS AT QUEEN'S CLUB: PLAY ON THE WING.

MISS BATTLE.

MR. OTTO MADDEN.

THE WEDDING OF MR. OTTO MADDEN TO MISS BATTLE IS ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK.

ATHLETICS AND CYCLING.

The policy of the Herne Hill Harriers in promoting races open to athletes residing within a certain distance of their headquarters is the subject of general commendation. Their effort in that direction last Saturday was a big success. The distance was three miles, and the event was a handicap open to members of the promoting club and residents within seven miles of Hackbridge.

The winner turned up in E. C. Barry, of the promoting club. The latter is a promising young runner from King's College School, and should prove a useful recruit. His start was 1 min. 25 sec., and his net time of 19 min. 36 sec. was only 26 3-5 sec. slower than the fastest in the race. F. A. Finch (Hackbridge Harriers), 1 min. 30 sec. start, was second; and F. Clayton, of the same club, was third from the 2 min. 10 sec. mark. Members of the Malden Harriers, Surbiton Harriers, Ewell F.C., and Belgrave Harriers also took part in the race.

The Blackheath Harriers had a big day at Blackheath, their first and reserve teams meeting two similar teams of the United Hospitals Hare and Hounds over the 7½-miles course. The Heathens were successful in both events, the seniors by 24 points to 31, and the juniors by 17 points to 38. In the more important event E. F. Judson (Blackheath) was first man home, his time being 45 min. 19 2-5 sec.; G. C. Birt (Hospitals) was second in 46 min. 27 sec.; and R. F. C. York (Blackheath) third in 46 min. 50 sec.

The times were naturally slower in the minor event, but Blackheath supplied first, second, and third, their victory being more easily achieved than that of the seniors. T. C. Carnaghan was first, G. H. Bull second, and S. E. Lucas—all of the home club—third. H. W. H. May, of the Hospitals, was fourth, and the only one of his side to finish in the first six.

Nine competitors turned out for the Ranelagh Harriers' eight miles walking handicap at Putney Heath. The scratch man was, of course, F. B. Thompson, who walked splendidly, and, taking the lead one hundred yards from home, he won comfortably by 10 sec. The order of finishing, after the winner, was: A. F. Hillier, F. Jarvis, T. E. Williams, J. H. Anderson, and C. H. Spendlove. Hillier took the lead at the half-distance, but Thompson played a waiting game, and once he strode to the front it was all over.

The South London Harriers had a seven miles walk in the Croydon district, and the race was noteworthy for the

ST. ANDREW'S DAY AT ETON.—THE FAMOUS "WALL GAME": COLLEGERS v. OPPIDANS.

THE VANISHING ISLE OF WIGHT.—SEE THIS WEEK'S "SKETCH."

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THE

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Splendid Christmas Stories by E. F. BENSON, LILIAN QUILLER COUCH, Mrs. C. N. WILLIAMSON, FRED M. WHITE, MINNIE CECILE PATERSON, and LIZZIE C. REID; and an exciting **Serial Story** by Mrs. B. M. CROKER.

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AT KEMPTON PARK: AT THE LAST HURDLE FOR THE ST. MARGARET'S HURDLE-RACE.

Capital form of the veteran E. Knott. He was in receipt of 15 sec. start from E. H. Neville, and covered the course in 68 min. 12 sec., handicap time, his net time being 68 min. 27 sec. As Neville did 69 min. 42 sec., the winner made the fastest time. A. W. Clay-Thomas was second, H. N. Duke third, and E. H. Neville fourth.

MR. J. FEARNLEY,

WHO DIED ON NOV. 30. MR. FEARNLEY WAS THE HERO OF MANY BRAVE DEEDS, SAVING SEVERAL PEOPLE FROM DROWNING. HE WAS THE POSSESSOR OF THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY'S MEDAL.

Polytechnic, Belgrave, Finchley, Northampton Institute, and other packs were usefully employed, but there were no other events than those recorded calling for more than passing mention.

A splendid performance or rather series of performances, was accomplished on Monday by F. H. Teall at the Sidney College, Cambridge, Sports. He won six of the closed events, taking the sprint in 11 1-5 sec., the 120 yards hurdles in 17 3-5 sec., the 440 yards in 53 1-5 sec., the high jump at 5 ft., the weight-putting event at 30 ft. 7 in., and the hammer-throwing at 62 ft. 8 in.

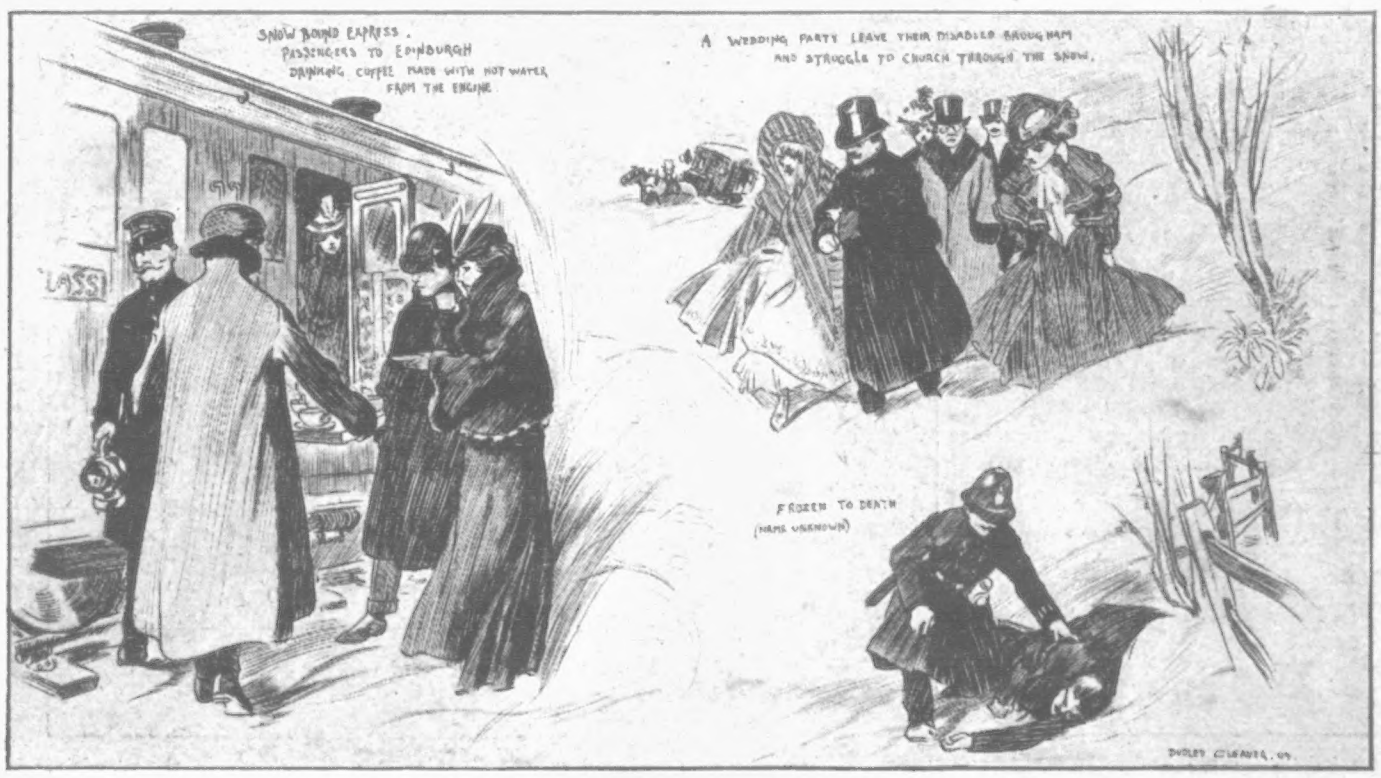
I am pleased to say that Stamford Bridge is not to be lost to us altogether. It was announced on Monday night that a new sports ground will be laid out on the old site, and doubtless the L.A.C. will remain there. The club's meetings for next year will be held in April, May, June, and September.

BILLIARDS.

The present week brought more interest to the world of billiards generally than has been the case so far this season. John Roberts arrived in town after having an easy journey with Bateman at Manchester, and the welcome that he got when he appeared on Monday at the Argyll Hall, with Mitchell as opponent, will never be forgotten by those who were present. Some ultra-critical people professed to see defects all-round in the play shown by Roberts, but although he did not seem to be quite in his old form at the top of the table, he made some wonderfully fine shots and some big breaks too. The Billiard Association's tournament was begun on the same day and drew crowded houses.

BANSHEE.

DUVAL STREET, SPITALFIELDS (FORMERLY DORSET STREET), WHICH HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING "THE WORST STREET IN LONDON."



THE COMING OF WINTER: SOME SKETCHES OF INCIDENTS DURING THE RECENT INCLEMENT WEATHER.

CONSUMPTION CAN BE CURED.

Derk P. Yonkerman, Specialist, whose discovery of a Cure for Consumption has startled the World.

Marvellous as it may seem after the centuries of failure, a cure for Consumption has at last been found. After twenty years of almost ceaseless research and experiment in his laboratory, the now renowned specialist, Derk P. Yonkerman, has discovered a specific which has cured the deadly Consumption even in its far-advanced stages. In many cases, though all other remedies tried had failed and changes of climate were unable to check the progress of the disease, this wonderful specific has conclusively proved its power to cure.

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Don't hesitate or delay if you have any of the symptoms of consumption. If you have chronic catarrh, bronchitis, asthma, pains in your chest, a cold on your lungs, or any throat or lung trouble, write to-day for the free trial treatment and full instructions, and cure yourself before it is too late.

HAVE YOU A BAD LEG?

WITH Wounds that discharge or otherwise, perhaps surrounded with inflammation, and so swollen that when you press your finger on the inflamed part it leaves the impression? If so, under the skin you have poison which, if not extracted, will cause you suffering till death releases you. Perhaps your knees are swollen, the joints being ulcerated; the same with the ankles, round which the skin may be discoloured, or there may be wounds. The disease if allowed to continue will deprive you of the power to walk. You may have attended various hospitals, and had medical advice and been told your case is hopeless or advised to submit to amputation; but do not, for I CAN CURE YOU. I don't say perhaps; but I WILL. Numbers have consulted me and been cured, after suffering from one to twenty years. If possible, call, or send a Postal Order for 2s. 6d. to ALBERT, 73A, Farringdon Street, London, and you will receive a box of

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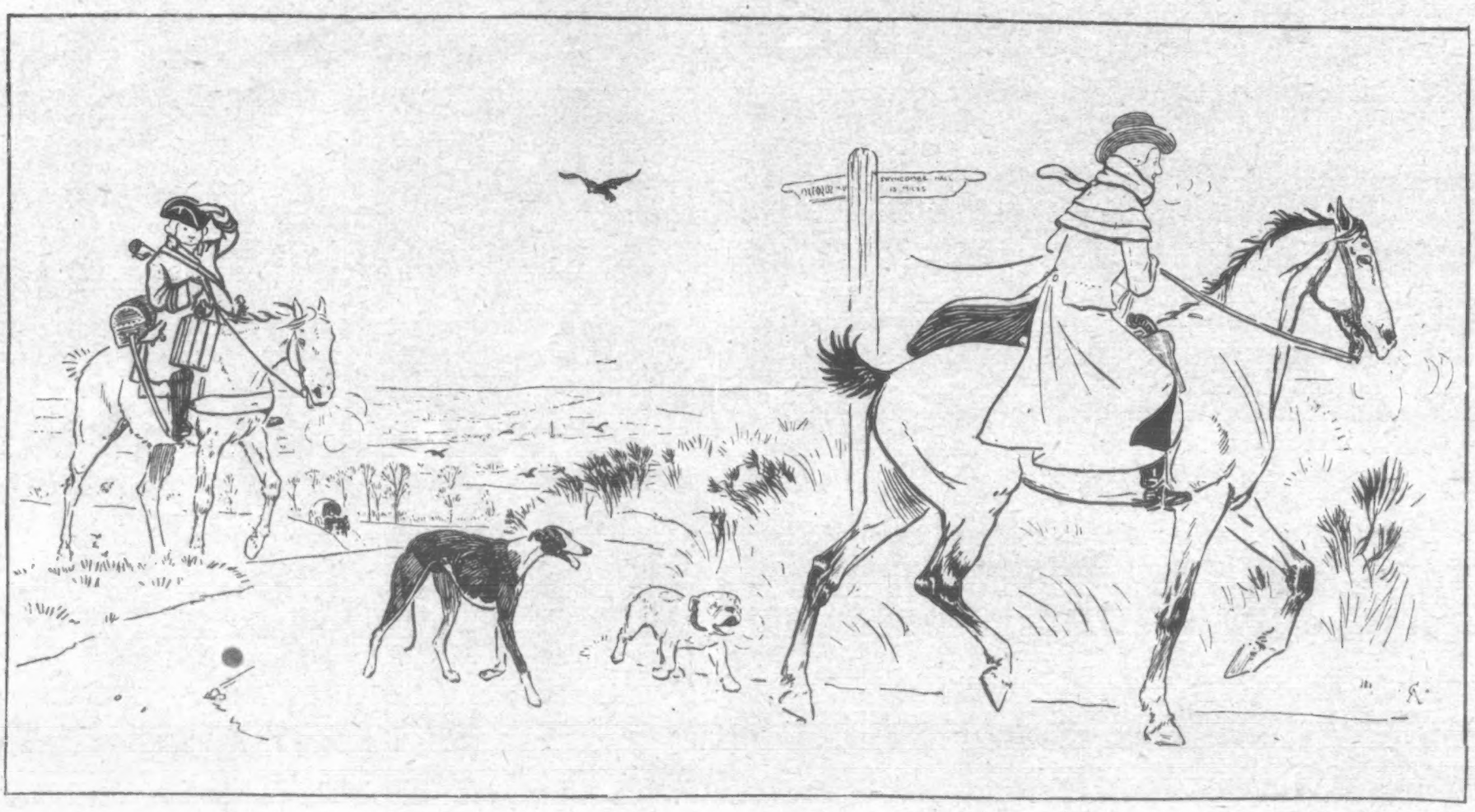
SCENES FROM "THE FREEDOM OF SUZANNE," AT THE CRITERION.—SEE THIS WEEK'S "SKETCH."

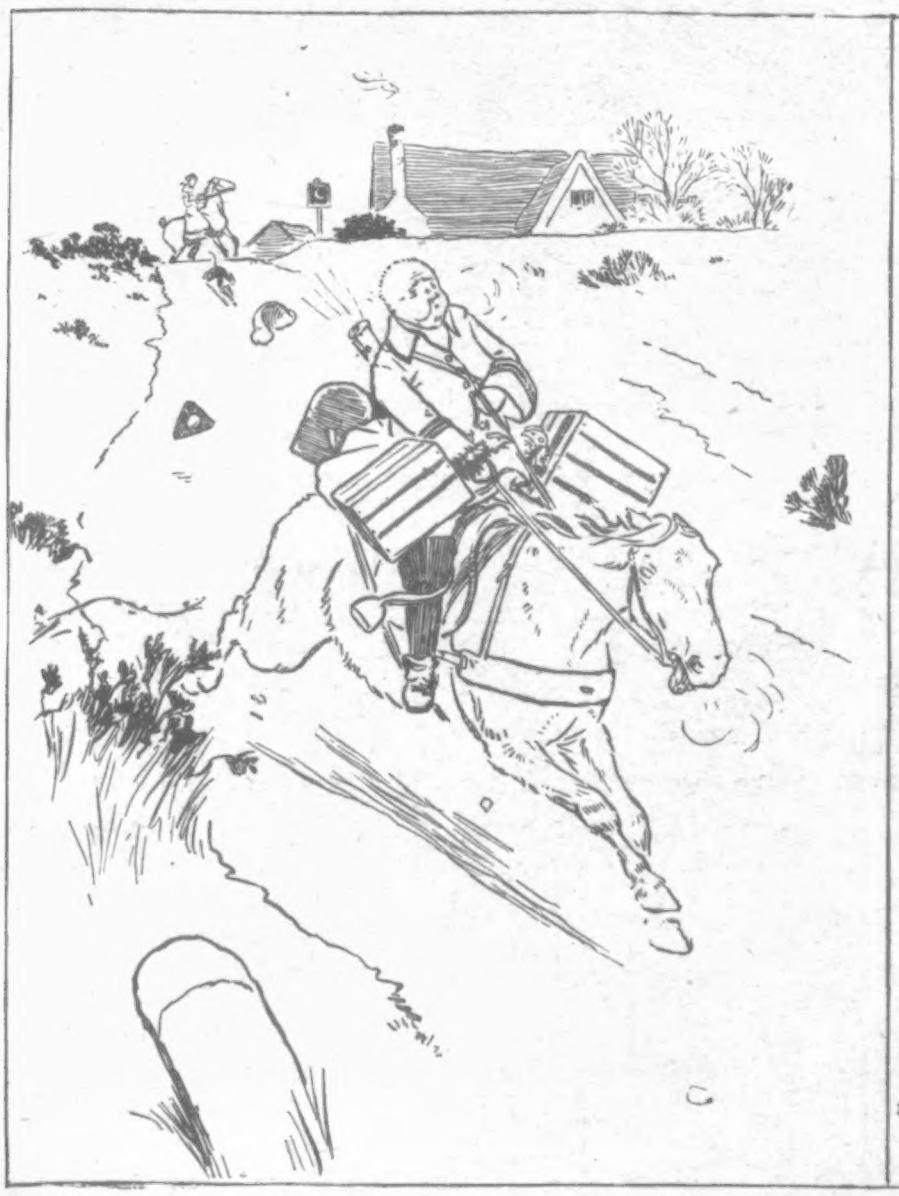
THE SQUIRE'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT

AND WHAT BECAME OF IT

BY CECIL ALDIN

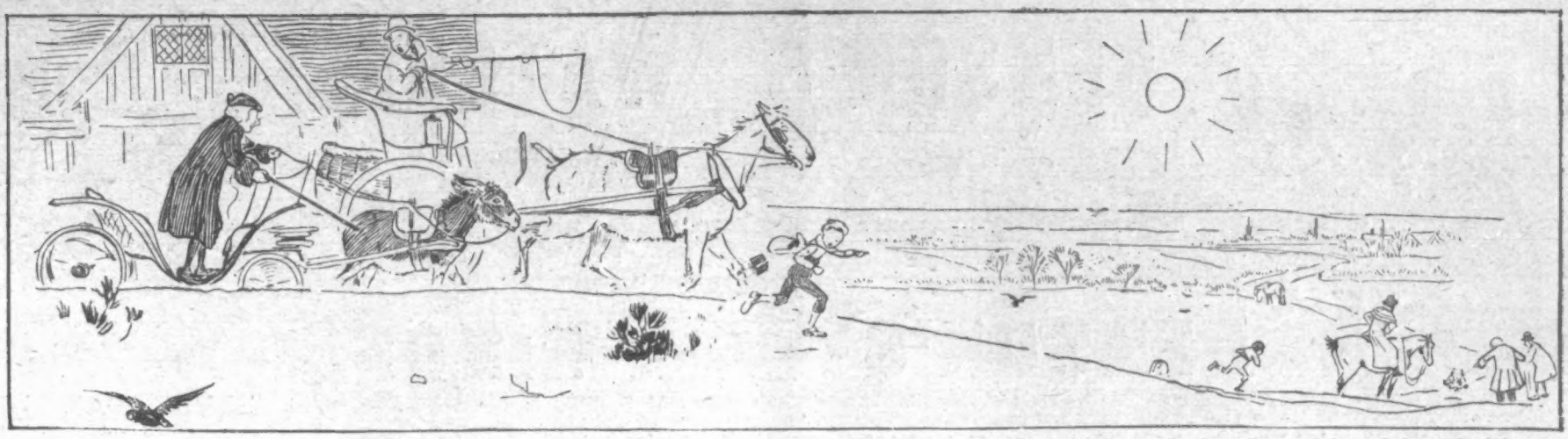


Having been asked to spend the Christmas vacation with my old friend Squire Ormerod, I left Oxford early one frosty morning accompanied by my retinue—consisting of John, carrying my valise; my two dogs, Fly and Forceps; and a brace of fighting cocks, a Christmas present for the Squire.



At the top of Cooksey Hill an altercation arose between the two birds—who, somehow or other, had managed to get their heads out of the boxes we had provided for them to travel in—which, in the end, caused the old mare John was riding to bolt, and eventually landed them all in a ditch——

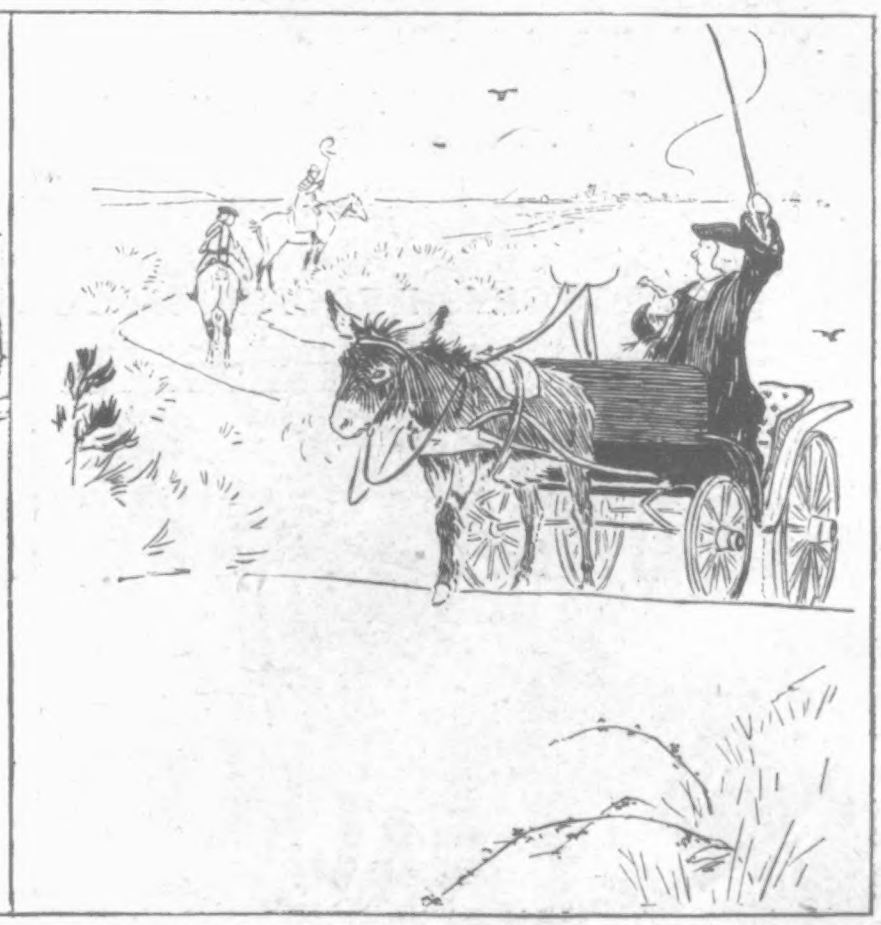
Where the battle was continued in earnest. In the excitement of the moment, John, forgetting all the minor evils of his rapid exodus from the saddle, eagerly cheered them on, until a ring soon began to be formed by a few stragglers from the village.



The old Parson, thinking over his Christmas sermon, as he jogged along in his four-wheeled chaise, was told of the mill going on in the valley, and hurried down the hill, hoping to be in before the finish.

Enthusiastically he cheered his fancy, as the fortunes of war favoured first one bird and then the other. He and John, both having kept fighting cocks in their day—kept up a running commentary on the merit and demerits of the birds they fancied—

Until, at last, the Parson's bird managed to stretch his opponent out, when the old man's excitement was intense.



As the winning chanticleer was too severely punished to present to the Squire as was originally intended, I offered him to his backer—much to the old fellow's delight—determining to procure a second brace, if possible, at the first town we passed through.

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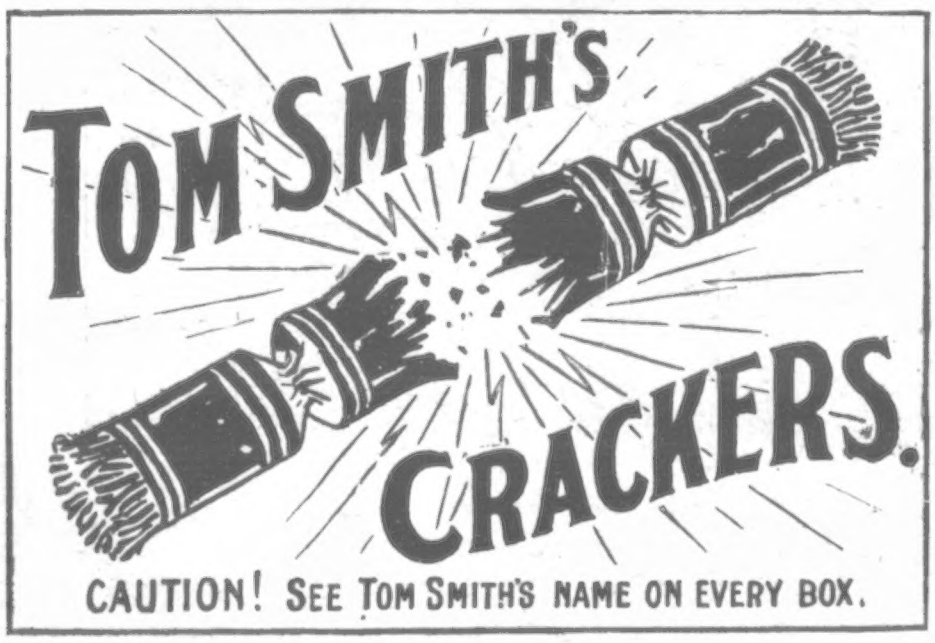

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Restores the Colour to Carpets.
Cleans Plate and Jewellery.
Softens Hard Water.
So Vivifying after Cricket, Motoring and other Sports.

"MAKES HOME, SWEET HOME IN DEED."

GATHERING MISTLETOE IN FRANCE FOR THE CHRISTMAS MARKET.

CHRISTMAS IN ADVERSITY

CHRISTMAS IN THE OLD TIMES: A GAME

From the Famous Picture by the Late Josef B

S: A GAME OF MUSICAL CHAIRS.

A CHRISTMAS TOAST: "TO YOUR BRIGHT EYES THIS CUP I DRAIN."

THE CRIMSON SLIPPER.

By DORA LANGLOIS.

Author of "A Bolt From the Blue," "That Red-Headed Woman," "The Kiss of Judas," "The Secretary's Daughter," "Victoria's Dream," &c.

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CHAPTER XV.

THE NARRATIVE RESUMED BY RICHARD DUNCAN.

ONCE again it becomes my business to take up the threads of the story, and for that purpose I must ask the reader to return to the time when, Howell and Herman having departed, I was left in Minting's hands for a course of that treatment which he styled "the hopeful view."

As Herman has already stated, the treatment answered well with me, but it was rather a dangerous experiment for all that. Minting it was who saw Dr. Drew's messenger and explained away the misunderstanding about a specialist; he soothed me on Tuesday morning when there was no line from Herman (who had left, as the reader will remember, on Monday afternoon), and he again informed me when the second post came in that he had received a postcard from Mr. Herman, saying that I was to expect good news shortly, and so sent me off into a delicious and health-restoring sleep. Well as he acted by me, he could not, however, clog the wheels of fate, nor, with all his cunning, help those who were by now in such sore straits.

That he had received no postcard on Tuesday the reader is, of course, aware, as Howell and Herman were not in a position on or after Monday night to communicate with their friends; but on Wednesday morning I was so much better that I was allowed to leave my bed, and was sitting up in my room when Minting came in beaming, with a letter in his hand.

"It's from Bowden, Sir," he cried enthusiastically, "and as it isn't in our Mr. 'Erman's 'and I think it'll be from Mr. 'Owell; but wot I can't make out is why he should have put on the envelope, 'If gone, kindly forward to 10, Sandringham Gardens, S.W.' He couldn't possibly think you was going to town so soon."

I almost snatched the envelope from Minting, saw that what he said was quite correct, and that it really bore my private town address, and then, quite as much puzzled as himself, tore it open and extracted the contents—contents which had made the cover bulgy and uneven. The enclosures were a neatly written letter and a soiled handkerchief folded round a card. I chose the former first, and read as follows—

Elm Tree Farm, Bowden, Tuesday.

Sir,—The enclosed is evidently intended for you, but I regret that I cannot give any particulars as to where or when it was picked up. My wife, who is here for her health, has just found it in the pocket of our little son's sailor-suit; but as the suit was worn for the first time on Sunday it could not have been in the child's possession earlier than that day.—I am, Sir, faithfully yours, HENRY JOHNSTON.

P.S.—I see that you are stated to be staying at Elsinore, Santhwaite, till October, but for safety I add your town address.

I dropped the letter, and with trembling fingers unwrapped the handkerchief and examined it. Sewn to one of the corners with black cotton was an ordinary visiting-card of my own, across the face of which I myself apparently had written the words, "Elsinore, Santhwaite, till October 1st."

To whom had I given a card so marked? Ah! I remembered now—to Mary Denzell when I promised to buy the desk. I turned for confirmation to the initials on the handkerchief, and found that they were hers. My card, then, was the address of this strange missive, the initials were the sender's signature; the message itself, failing writing materials, was worked in black cotton on the handkerchief.

I say the message, but unfortunately it was only half a message, for my would-be correspondent had evidently been interrupted in her task. From the final pot-hook of the last unfinished word a loose end of cotton hung, all waved and crinkled like unravelled yarn, suggesting that the cotton had only been procured by being pulled out of some seam sewn by a chain-stitch machine. This, and everything else about it, spoke of the haste, the fear, the pressing necessity of her who had thus tried to reach me.

Four complete monosyllables and two letters, that was all; the first worked in the ordinary cross-stitch, the rest merely run to save time, in characters as uneven as a child's first effort at penmanship.

"Help soon, I am sh——"

Here the interruption had occurred, and the dangling end of cotton hung, unable to tell me more.

But the sender had not quite come to the end of her resources. Two more long basting-stitches there were, and by them was attached to the handkerchief an unused but soiled picture-postcard, representing a water-mill. Clearly, then, the message should read: "Help soon, I am shut up in a water-mill at Bowden." How and when had Mary Denzell trusted this message to Fate? If on Sunday, all might yet be well; but if so late as Tuesday (yesterday) what were Howell and Herman doing? The message Herman had left for me said only that they were going to watch the house of some person at Bowden named Halladay. If there was in Bowden a mill kept by a Halladay, then they were near at hand unknown to her. If, on the other hand, the miller was not a Halladay, then they were clearly off the scent.

"Minting," I cried, "show me Mr. Herman's postcard."

"I didn't keep it, Sir," he stammered.

"Did they give any address that we could write to?"

"No, Sir."

Instantly it flashed on me that he was lying, and that Herman had not written. True, all might yet be well, but it might as easily be far otherwise. I drew out my watch. Yes, I had still time to catch the afternoon train to Bowden. I wondered if Minting had the strength to prevent me, and whether he would try.

"Get Bob out quick!" I cried.

"What for, Sir?"

"Someone must go to Bowden," I answered equivocally. "Make haste! Get him into the shafts as quickly as possible and come to me for instructions."

He went off instantly, and the moment he was gone I sprang up, threw off my dressing-gown, got into my coat and boots, crammed my pockets with what cash I could find and a small brandy-flask, and then hurried downstairs into the dining-room. A few minutes later Minting passed the door and ran upstairs; then I made my way into the yard, and panting, shaky, but triumphant, mounted into the cart and started for the station.

I was just in time to find a boy to take Bob home before catching my train, and then, the first excitement over, I was left face to face with the question, What was I to do, how was I to gain admittance to the mill? I could go to the police, of course, and claim their assistance, but I shrank from the idea. I could not, as it were, go to her and serve that writ in person. I preferred rather to trust to chance and luck.

"You've a rather picturesque water-mill here, haven't you?" I asked the ticket-collector boldly, when I got out at Bowden.

"There's old Halladay's mill, Sir," he answered dubiously. "I don't know that it's picturesque, but it's the only one hereabouts. There's a footpath behind the post-office, and anyone will show it to you."

I thanked him and hurried on with new hope. Since the miller's name was Halladay, Howell and Herman were doubtless watching his house, and I might possibly join forces with them; but as it would not do for me to jeopardise their success by rousing suspicion, I went into a little stationer's shop and bought a sketch-book and pencil before asking my way to the post-office and field-path.

I had no difficulty in finding someone to direct me, and a brisk walk soon brought me to the mill itself. There it stood, silent and solitary—the only life in the picture the grubbing pigs and the scarcely less industrious cocks and hens. All round to the front and sides of the house were fields and hedges and sparsely scattered clumps of trees. Behind one of these, or in some ditch, Howell and Herman might be hiding. If so—though I could not see them—if I could make myself conspicuous they might see me and give me the office.

Relying on my sketch-book, then, to explain my appearance to others, and to get me out of trouble if accused of trespassing, I boldly left the beaten track and began to wander about the fields, but there was neither sound nor movement. No voice greeted me, no friendly face appeared, and with every minute that passed the conviction strengthened that in this I was destined to play a lone hand or seek the help of the police.

"If they are here at all they must be nearer the house," I said to myself; "and, anyway, I can't afford to wait." So, boldly crossing the field I was then in, I went close up to a fence which separated the field from the back yard of the mill, and looked over it. There was little enough to tempt the would-be artist in the yard itself—nothing but the unsightly litter that speaks of poultry-breeding and pig-keeping. Near a gate in the fencing stood a wheelbarrow containing a large can, such as oilmen use to send out paraffin, and beyond the gate lay a large kitchen-garden. That was all I had to note, when the back door opened and a stout old woman came out.

"Are you wanting anything, Sir?" she asked civilly.

"I should much like to get a sketch of the mill," I answered, raising my hat.

"Oh, not from the back, Sir," she protested. "The yard's that littered! It's *much* better from the front. Won't you walk to the gate in the fence lower down and get a look at it?"

"Really, I should like to sketch that fine old barn," I answered, prompted by no reason other than a desire to stop where I was least wanted.

"Nobody thinks much of it, Sir," she stammered uneasily, "but there's a fine

(Continued on Page 385.)

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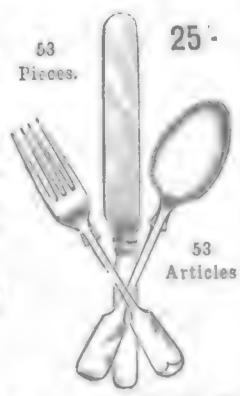
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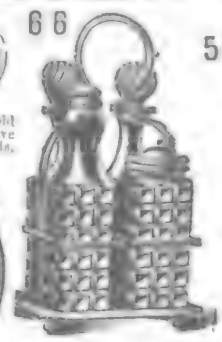
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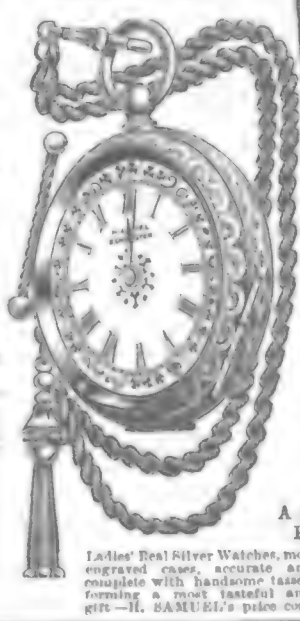
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chimney-corner in the mill as folks comes miles to see. If you 'll step round to the front I 'll show it to you, and welcome."

That she wished to get me away it was no longer possible to doubt, but why she should be so eager to do it at once puzzled me greatly, for, look where I might, I could see nothing suspicious.

"Are those fowls what you call buff Orpingtons?" I asked.

"No, Sir; oh, no, they 're no particular breed. They 're only——" Her jaw dropped, and I saw her glance wander beyond me in a sort of helpless terror, and turning in the direction that glance indicated, I saw an old man coming down the path of the kitchen garden I have already alluded to. "This gentleman is an artist, William," she hastened to explain, with the precipitation of a child detected in some flagrant act of disobedience. "He is wishful to draw the barn, he says. I was just asking him to step inside and see the ingle-nook."

"He 's kindly welcome, I 'm sure," the old man replied in a rasping tone, meant, no doubt, to imply cheery hospitality, but with his thick black brows lowering ominously on his wife. "Mayhap he 'd like to see the old oak bed in the little chamber too, and the clock with wooden wheels? There 's many nrsts to see 'em; some folks sets store by they things, more 'an I do myself."

For a moment I stared at the strange pair in confusion. Why was the old woman so eager that the old man should not see me at the back of the house (which seems so uninteresting and incapable of telling me anything), when he was even more ready than she to show me over the interior? Their accord on one point proved that Miss Denzell was no longer at the mill, but the reason for the woman's conduct baffled me. I had, however, no time to think the matter out; this offer was clearly made to allay my suspicions if I had any (for the British yoeman is too coldly exclusive to make such overtures readily), and the fact that it was deemed necessary to take such a course with me proved that they were on their guard.

"Thank you very much," I answered carelessly, puttingly up my sketch-book. "I should like to see the house immensely, but I 'm afraid I haven't time this afternoon, my friends will be waiting for me. They are staying at Elm Tree Farm. Might I come to-morrow and bring my friend's wife and her little boy with me?"

The old man's face cleared a little, and I thought, or at least hoped, that I had set his doubts at rest.

"Any time you like, Sir," he said. "You and the lady will be kindly welcome."

I thanked them both effusively, and after inquiring the shortest way back to Elm Tree Farm, for it would never have done to take a wrong direction, I took myself off, busy with the problem they had set me. It was more by chance than wit, however, that a solution presented itself to me; I knew that I must not linger anywhere near now while the light lasted, and, happening to turn round to take a last hopeless survey of the landscape, I caught sight of the big house to which the kitchen garden elonged, and noted for the first time that the blinds were all closed, and that it appeared to be uninhabited.

What business had the old man got in an empty house? Supposing him to be a caretaker, and his errand a perfectly legitimate one, why should his wife have been so anxious not to let me see him come from thence? The answer was a simple one; it flashed across me instantly—Miss Denzell was no longer at the mill; she was shut up in that big, desolate mansion, where her cries for help could not be heard by any of the miller's customers.

Yes, that was the place I had to force my way into; there I must go as soon as the light failed and gave me the security of the evening shadows. Sick with anxiety and impatience, I withdrew myself into the shelter of a clump of trees and waited for the sun to set, asking myself the crucial question, was I too early or too late? Should I by delay permit, or by want of caution precipitate some catastrophe?

No sick man on his bed of pain ever prayed for the dawn more earnestly than I for sundown as I watched the crimson glory in the west merge slowly into purple and fade to grey; but at last the welcome darkness came, and I set out towards the house.

I found no difficulty in getting into the garden, and it did not take me long to make my first tour of inspection. The result was not encouraging. As I had expected, every means of ingress on the ground-floor was firmly secured, while such of the windows above as might be reached by a good climber were apparently protected by shutters.

In hopeless obstinacy I wandered round the house again, and as I reached the back of the building for the second time I ran against a large obstacle, which had certainly not been in the way a few minutes before, and, stooping to examine it, I saw that it was the big rough wheelbarrow that I had seen standing in the millyard with a big oil-can in it. It was right in the middle of the path, close to one of the doors I had previously tried; and its presence clearly proved that old Halladay, the miller, had just arrived and let himself in.

I tried the door, but it was as fast as ever. I cursed myself in my rage and disappointment for having missed him, but there was nothing for it now but to wait till he came out and then collar him; and waiting was torment while he was within, free to do what he liked.

How long I waited I do not know, but making all allowance for my impatience, I think it was fully half an hour. Drawn up against the wall, my eyes fixed on the door, I was like a terrier watching a rat-hole; it was so small an accident as the snapping of a dry twig that drew my attention away for a second, and then, almost at the bottom of the garden, making for his own gate, I saw old Halladay the miller. He had let himself out by some other door.

With a smothered exclamation I sprang after him; he heard me coming, and turned and faced me. In one hand he carried the big oil-can, in the other was a stout stick.

"It 's you, is it?" he said fiercely, his eyes glaring into mine, his savage old jowl protruding, as those of the lower animals protrude when they long to fly at an enemy's throat, yet hardly dare.

"Come!" I answered, as fiercely as he. "There 's no use in pretending! You have a lady shut in that house, and you must take me to her at once."

"I 'll see you hanged first!" he retorted. "You try to get into that house; you get into it at your peril!"

"Give me the keys," I cried. "You 're an old man, don't make me hurt you."

For answer he aimed a savage blow at my head with the thick stick he carried. I dodged, and it fell on my shoulder with a crack that tingled to my finger-ends. I stretched out both hands to grapple with him, but before my fingers closed he slipped through them and fell away from me on the gravel, either dead or in a fit.

What was I to do? To call for assistance would ruin my chance; to leave him thus without aid to lie and die was inhuman. To my intense relief, before I had time to decide on any course, the back-door of the mill-house opened, and I saw against the light the figures of the old woman and a countryman.

"It 's William, missus, I tell 'ee," said the man. "Summat 's wrong wi 'un; I 'll run and see."

There was no time for delay now, and no necessity. I ran my hand over the old man's pocket, found what I sought—a bunch of keys—and was back again at the side-door in a few seconds.

I found a key that fitted the lock, but the door did not yield—it was obviously bolted; still the door by which Halladay let himself out could not be so secured, and I had only to try each one in succession. Keeping well in the shadow, therefore, I worked round the house, came to a door in a sort of octagonal extension, tried my keys, and a moment later found myself in the house at the foot of the grand staircase.

It seemed to me most probable that, if in the house at all, Miss Denzell would be above in a bed-room, not in one of the larger rooms below, so I carefully and noiselessly ascended the stairs after taking the precaution of extracting the key from the lock, that no one creeping behind me should have the chance of making me a prisoner.

Doubtless the door of the room in which she was confined could be opened by one of the small keys on the bunch I carried; I must, therefore, try all the doors in succession.

One, two, three doors I opened, and found nothing behind them but blank, unanswering darkness; then as I fitted its key into a fourth lock a woman's voice cried, "What is it! Who is there? and a second later she was clinging to my arm, trembling and sobbing.

"That old man!" she cried. "That dreadful old miller!"

"Hush, hush!" I answered reassuringly, "he can't hurt you now. He is at his own house lying in a fit. But let us go? Where is the foreigner?"

"He has gone," she said. "He and the master of this house. They went away on Monday night, I think. There is no one else here. No, don't go yet, Mr. Duncan. I have something to tell you, something I must tell before you help me any further. You may hardly care to when you know all."

Until that moment I had forgotten everything in the joy of having found her once again; but her words recalled our true position towards each other—I as accuser, she as a woman branded by me with theft. When *she* knew all would she care to accept my help?"

"I do know," I answered. "Do not let us speak of it. Come away."

I tried to lead her gently to the door as I spoke, but she drew back.

"I must speak," she said breathlessly. "I must tell you. I know that you know the dreadful thing that Mr. Danvers tried to do; and, knowing that, you know also that I exposed you to suspicion when I got you to buy the desk—although, believe me, I never thought your having it would injure you: but what you don't know, what I must tell you now, is that I—that I——"

"That you took the paper from my house?" I interrupted, with a desperate effort to make things easier for her. "I do know that. My friend saw you in my room. We have been looking for you, and for the paper ever since."

"I did not take it to sell!" she cried vehemently. "For Heaven's sake, don't think that of me! I have done my best, my very best, to save it. I could not do more. Did you—did you think I took the thing to sell it?"

"No," I said, in miserable self-contempt, because I dare not give an unqualified denial. "I did not think that after I found you had not come with the foreigners. I guessed then that it was to save your guardian's reputation."

"No, no," she panted, with sudden vehemence, "it was not that! *It was too late for that.* It was for that that I made you buy the desk. But before I took the paper I knew what I had done in passing the desk on to you. I knew the danger you were in if the paper was found in your possession, and it seemed to me that I must—I must undo the mischief I had done."

A great trembling seized me. I felt that I could not trust my senses; and yet, if her words meant anything, they meant that she had risked everything *for me*. If so—— But what was the use of thinking of it, seeing what I had to tell her?

"I don't understand it," I said feebly. "Who told you I was in danger? Besides, how did you come to know anything about the paper? You—you swore at the inquest, and repeated afterwards to me, that you knew nothing about Mr. Danvers' plans."

I did not mean that I doubted her. I did not really doubt, only the recollection of the facts I cited had suddenly clutched my heart as in a vice, and. I wanted her to clear herself, to speak and confirm the faith that was in me. No devotee in tears and penitence ever wrestled in spirit, seeking a heavenly sign, more ardently than I at that moment with my shadowy doubts.

Of course she did not understand. How could she? My voice was dull and level, because I had so many emotions to suppress and was so helpless and bewildered. She could not see my face, which might have told her something, for the match I had struck when I entered had long since gone out. The arm she held was stiff and rigid. I feared to move it lest she should take her hand away, and, feeling myself a traitor, dare not clasp it in my own. So I suppose my attitude was that of a judge; and she, regarding me as such, spoke more coldly from that moment, humbly but coldly, and with a certain quality in her voice that had not been there before.

"I did not perjure myself, Mr. Duncan. I knew nothing then—nothing but that there was a mystery, and that it was like most mysteries, probably discreditable. I learnt the truth later, and I will tell you how."

"Tell me quickly if you can," I said. "We ought to go."

"It will not take long," she answered. "You know, perhaps, that I had advertised for a situation? Well, the very day of the sale I received a wire telling me to start the following day for London and call at an address in the City. I was told that I might find employment, and that in any case my expenses would be paid. I did as directed. I reached town on the Friday, called at the address given, and saw a gentleman who put me into a cab, in which I was driven out into the country. There, late in the afternoon, I saw someone and learnt what I was wanted for."

"I understand," I whispered. "You saw Lord ——," and I named the great man.

"Yes, it was he," she said, "and he told me what Mr. Danvers had tried to do, and asked me if I knew anything—if I had seen or found any papers. I told him truthfully that I had not, but that if I ever did he should have them."

"You did not mean to destroy the paper, then?" I queried.

"No, I did not," she answered. "What was the use when—when everything was known? I meant then to tell you the whole truth, and ask you to break the desk up to make doubly sure."

"If only you had done that!" I groaned.

"I could not," she answered. "Listen! After my interview with the great man they took me to a room to remove my travel stains, and there on the carpet I found a gold cuff-link like the pair you wore the day you called on me. It had a 'D' in blue enamel on it. When I saw that, I guessed that you had been there, and that you were under suspicion. I felt then that I must get back to Santhwaite as quickly as possible and see you at once; but on my way to the station my purse was stolen. I had no ticket and no money; even the pawnshops were closed, and I had to spend the night walking about the streets."

"In the streets? Good Heavens!" I said, with a shudder.

She did not seem to wish to dwell on her experience of London after dark, and hurried on with her story; but even as I listened my fancy was busy following that lonely figure, that pale, beautiful face through the gaslit streets. So *that* experience, among others, had fallen to the woman whom I loved.

"I pawned my watch and chain in the morning," she continued, "and got back to Santhwaite by the express. But I was too tired to move; I had to lie down till after tea, and then I set out to come and see you. That was Saturday evening. Do you remember coming out and going for a walk across the moor, probably just after you had dined?"

"Yes, I remember," I replied. "I 'm not likely to forget any incident of that night."

"Well," she said, "I got to your house just a few minutes before you came out, and I happened to see two men under the trees, evidently watching and waiting for something. I wondered if they were spies, and I was afraid to go on to your door. So I walked on a little, and then turned back in time to see you come out and to see them follow you."

"Good Heavens!" I groaned. "What a miserable game of hide-and-seek!"

But for the loss of her purse she would have travelled by the train that took me back to Elsinore. She had been again at my very elbow when I set out over the moor to look for her, and we had now to face this siege of trouble because no sixth sense had told me she was near.

"You went away across the moor," she continued, "with those two men following you; and then I knew for certain that the very worst had happened, for with those two men watching you I could not even have an interview with you without their knowing it."

"What did that matter?" I exclaimed. "What could it matter if we had smashed the desk and found the paper?"

"Remember!" she expostulated, "I did not know that the paper was really in the desk. *It would have mattered* if we had smashed the desk and *not* found the paper. The mere fact that I had come straight from Lord —— to you would have made the suspicion you were under look all the blacker. At least, I thought it would; I think so even now."

"That 's true," I admitted. "Heaven help us! You were not to know."

"You can guess how the rest happened, can you not?" she said. "I hung about the house for hours it seemed, wondering what I ought to do, and then it all grew out of a dreadful thought that, if the paper was really in the desk, someone might break in and take it while you were away. I saw the open window and the desk in the empty room with no one to protect it, and all at once it came upon me that if I could only take the paper myself while you and the men who were watching you were away, I could return it to Lord ——, and no one would ever know that it had been for a time in your house. That is the whole truth, Mr. Duncan. I have told you everything."

Everything! She had told me in so many words that she had done all, risked all, for me. She had clearly avowed that she was not actuated by her love for the dead man, of whom I had been jealous since the first. Well might she say she had told me everything; what more could I hope to hear? But she had taken her hand from my arm. I hungered for her touch, and I had told her nothing.

The time was come—like murder, it must out. I was thankful for the merciful darkness that would hide her face from me in the first horror of my revelation. I had only one consolation—the moment I had told her the truth I could ask her to become my wife.

"Let us go," she said, and, turning to the door, opened it, for it had swung to after me.

I tried to collect myself. I opened my parched lips, but at that very moment a gleam like sheet lightning flashed across a mirror facing the open door. I paused in stupid wonder; then the light flashed again, spread, throbbed, and died down, and I knew that it was too red and murky for electricity—it was fire!

(To be continued.)

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HINDE'S HAIR WAVERS

The Late Lord Justice Chitty, on the application of Mr. Lewis Edmunds, Q.C., recently granted a perpetual injunction, with costs, restraining a West End Draper from passing off spurious curlers and selling them as "Hinde's" Curlers. Evidence was given by a lady nurse, Mrs. Nobbs of Kensington, that she had suffered damage by such misrepresentation. Ladies are urged to note that no curlers or waves are genuine unless they bear the name "Hinde's" legibly impressed and on the box the "Hinde's Wavers" fashion on the article. The present and on the box Nos. 18, 19, 20, a necessity at any well-appointed toilet table, and ladies to whom these little appliances may be at present unknown will experience a revelation as to the ease and rapidity with which the day or evening coiffure can be completed. They are sold in 1/- boxes by every dealer in the three Queendoms, or Sample box may be had free by post for thirteen stamps from the proprietors, Hindes Limited, Finsbury, London, E.C.

THE WORLD OF WOMEN.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS are more in our thoughts now than dress and fashion. The women who have no carriages or motor broughams to drive about in, but depend upon the humble omnibus for locomotion, wear, if they are sensible, short skirts of tweed or serge which will not spoil if splashed with mud, and stout boots with cloth gaiters to protect their legs and insteps, and about these useful but not ornamental garments there is no fashion. I have been to several of the shops to see the pretty articles intended for

Christmas Gifts;

I have also studied the Christmas Presents Number of the *Lady's Pictorial*, which is dated December 3, and I recommend it to the notice of my readers, for a close inspection of its pages will enable them to decide between the rival merits of the various exhibitions—for they are nothing less—at the different shops. The crackers are wonderful this season, and Christmas without crackers is very incomplete. The "Japanese Tea Party" crackers are a novelty. Outside these are wee Japanese figures of men and women holding up paper umbrellas. Dutch crackers have inside little mugs, jugs, cups, and flower-vases intended for dolls' houses. Louis Wain's "Cat Crackers" will be in great demand; inside these are prehistoric cats, comic cats, cat masks, etc. "Spirit of Mirth" crackers will delight children, for inside they will find false noses, caps and bells, and magic mirrors. Little girls will treasure "Queen Alexandra's Jewel Casket," which contains Royal crowns, Royal coronets and Royal photographs beautifully set in jewels. Our old friend Tom Smith is up-to-date always with his crackers, and amongst his collection this season will be found the "Russo-Japanese" box, which is covered with portraits of Japanese and Russian generals, and contains inside all manner of warlike weapons. At Messrs. Vickery's, 179, 181, and 183, Regent Street, there are many beautiful and useful presents; they are not cheap, but as there are plenty of rich people in the world, there is no danger that the goods will not be sold. I recommend a visit to Peter Robinson's Christmas Bazaar in Oxford Street. The difficulty there will be to make a selection; a shoehorn and button-hook, very pretty and good, being only 2s. 11d. for the pair. I admired also a silver-plated ash-tray, of good quality, price 1s. 11½d. A catalogue can be had on application to Peter Robinson, Oxford Street. James Shoolbred and Co. have a really magnificent assortment of Christmas gifts of all kinds; and for those who live in and about Bayswater and Notting Hill, and do not care to go further afield for shopping, the "Universal Provider," Mr. Whiteley, of Westbourne Grove, will be able to supply every reasonable want. Not any Christmas season have I seen such

Pretty and Original Boxes

of Christmas cards. As a rule, box-cards are commonplace both in design and lettering, but this year there is more variety and the colouring is good. As to the establishment of Woolland Brothers, I could not attempt to describe their goods. At Harrod's Stores the show is really magnificent, and, the show-rooms being large, it is possible to see everything to great advantage. Lace and ribbon cravats are more in favour even than last year, and if prettily made and well cut, they are very becoming to long-throated young girls. But I recommend my readers to get the Christmas Presents Number of the *Lady's Pictorial*, and to study it carefully before setting out to buy or sitting down to shop by post.

And now I should like to call the attention of my readers to a new scheme designed for the

Benefit of Women Who Work.

It is called the "Women's Dining-Room Company," and it has been formed for the purpose of supplying good food at a reasonable price to London women, and to carry out the plan on business lines. No attempt will be made to realise the large profits of many caterers in London. A strict limit will be placed upon the dividends of the shareholders, in order that as much money as possible may be devoted to adding comforts and to the extension of the work. Now if the plan is carried out on the sensible lines proposed, what a boon it will be! The first restaurant will be opened on March 7 at 5, Barrett Street, Duke Street, Manchester Square, between Oxford Street and Wigmore Street. Barrett Street is now being rebuilt and improved. In connection with the restaurant there will be a comfortable "Rest-room" supplied with newspapers and magazines, and the charge for a dinner of hot meat, vegetable, and pudding will be fivepence; with two vegetables and bread, sixpence. A choice of dishes will be offered, and tea or coffee can be obtained at the additional cost of one penny. Of course the success of this scheme depends upon the amount of support that it obtains, and that means support from regular customers, and the promoters hope that heads of work-rooms and offices where there are

Typists and Women Workers

generally will co-operate with them by arranging the dinner-hour of their assistants at a convenient time in order to make sure that the dining-room is neither too empty nor too full. The rooms are intended specially for dining and tea-rooms for women who are employed in business houses or professions. On each floor will be well-appointed (and I hope well-kept) lavatories, where hot water, soap, and towels will be provided without extra charge. Amongst the ladies and gentlemen who are acting as directors to the company are Mr. H. J. Tennant, M.P., and Mrs. Tennant, Mrs. Roberts, and Mr. Petterick, and they trust that their efforts will be so well supported by busy working women that the company will be able to open similar dining-rooms in other parts of London. I approve very highly of this scheme, and wish it every success.

Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, whose story "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm" has had such a large circulation here and across the water, is also the author of

A Beautiful Story

entitled "Timothy's Quest," which is given away with the Christmas Number of the *Christian Age* (ready Dec. 6, price 2d.), instead of the usual picture. Little Timothy's loving care of Baby Gay and their adventures in search of a home afford tears and laughter, and readers will find themselves in love with both of the little people.

The many thousands who read "Alice in Wonderland" and quote its quaint poems, are in danger of missing the humour of them because the poems of which they are parodies are almost forgotten. Most of them have been looked up, and appear in the Christmas Number of *Great Thoughts* (ready Nov. 28, price 2d.), which also contains an interesting article describing the French view of "Robinson Crusoe." To see ourselves as others see us often affords a vast amount of amusement.

And now, since this article is to appear in our Christmas Number, I must carry out what is ever a most pleasant duty, and wish all readers of the *P. I. P.* a very Happy Christmas.

MARGUERITE.

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Miss Ellen Terry has sent the secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund ten pounds which she has received from ladies and gentlemen for her autographs. Several other distinguished performers have followed Miss Terry's example, with the result of materially assisting the fund.

The Covent Garden balls of Messrs. Rendle and Forsyth, checked in their course for a time by the brilliant success of the San Carlo Opera Company, again offer their attractions to the public, with the addition of a charming view of Constantinople as seen from the entrance of the Golden Horn. The picturesque scene is wonderfully reproduced, and more than twenty costly prizes are offered by the management.

SOME SEASONABLE PHOTOGRAPHS.

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HAS JUST STRUCK US" that we should like to make the readers of *The Penny Illustrated Paper* a really good parcel of Christmas Cards, and "**HERE IT IS**," eclipsing anything before offered, both for novelty and value. If sold singly in the usual retail way, these "**WORKS OF ART**" would fetch four or five times the small sum we ask

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Special Gent's Chain List	No. 60	Special Toy and Game List	No. 130
Special Lady's Watch List	No. 70	Special Picture Postcard and Postcard Album List	No. 140
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WAR AND ITS MISERIES · A MILITARY "PRESS-GANG" IN RUSSIA FORCING A RESERVIST TO REJOIN HIS REGIMENT FIGHTING IN MANCHURIA

"P.I.P." PLAYGOER.

"THE White Cat," at Drury Lane, is in many respects different from the average Drury Lane pantomime. It is both pathetic and significant that the loss of poor Dan Leno should also mean the absence of that preponderating music-hall element which at one time was the chief feature in these productions. Personally I rejoice in the change, and consider it far more wholesome as well as more entertaining as Christmas fare. The authors have made the most of the fairy-story of "The White Cat" as a disguised Princess, and, of course, the principal Boy will be the young Prince who breaks the charm, and rescues the beautiful Princess, who, when the supreme moment of her deliverance arrives, will be seen in a flaming chariot drawn by sea-horses. So much for the heroine; but there will be ample pantomimic and grotesque incidents to gratify the most craving juvenile appetite. Indeed, it will not surprise me if most of my young friends say that "The White Cat" surpasses everything they have seen at Drury Lane. I do not remember that there was a donkey in the original story. No matter! There will be a donkey in this instance, and a right merry donkey too. The principal figures will be sustained by first-rate performers. For instance, Johnny Danvers will be seen as King Ivory; Mr. Harry Randall will represent King Asbestos, "a fairy retired from business"; Mr. Hugh Ward appears as a monkey and beats the theory of Darwin altogether, for instead of developing into a man during thousands of years, the transformation takes place during Boxing Night, and in face of the audience, so that science and fun will be blended—probably for the first time—on the stage of the National Theatre. Miss Macdonald, said to be a most charming young lady, is the furry heroine, afterwards Princess, and the scenery will be absolutely gorgeous.

Photo, Foulsham and Banfield.

MISS MILLIE LEGARDE.

Tolstoy's sombre drama, "The Powers of Darkness," first performed in 1893 at St. Petersburg, is slowly making its way from the Russian capital to other European cities. It has reached Berlin and Paris, but as yet English managers seem shy of the realistic horrors of Tolstoy, which Mr. Laurence Irving says will surpass in intensity every previous stage production. It is intended to show the "Powers of Darkness" in every possible combination, and will be relieved at last by a gleam of human goodness to prevent the audience sinking into an absolutely pessimistic mood.

Photo, Foulsham and Banfield.

MISS CONSTANCE COLLIER.

On Tuesday, at the Savoy, Mr. Brookfield's dramatic version of Leoncavallo's tragic opera "Paglacci" was announced, with Mr. Charles Warner as the deceived husband, a part almost reminding the playgoer of Othello.

After a prosperous run of exactly a year, "The Orchid," at the Gaiety, has reached its second edition, and on Dec. 1 appeared with new dresses, new dances, new songs, and a general air of freshness and fascination which will probably give this diverting musical piece another year of vitality or even more.

The next new theatre to be erected in London will be on a site immediately in front of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. The neighbourhood will soon be remarkable for theatres, as already there are the newly built Lyceum, the nearly completed Coliseum, the new theatre in Aldwych, and there is rumour of yet another new theatre not far from Drury Lane.

His Majesty's Theatre closes after the matinée on the 21st, to reopen on the following Monday evening. On Thursday, Jan. 19, Mr. Tree will revive "Much Ado About Nothing," with himself and Miss Winifred Emery in the principal characters. There will be some striking innovations in the stage management, and the costumes are being designed by Mr. Byam Shaw. The Titian period is chosen, and as the incidental music is intended to be a prominent feature, Mr. Raymond Roze is busily engaged in making a selection from the music of the time. In fact, there is every promise of the revival of "Much Ado About Nothing" being one of the most important of modern stage representations.

On Friday last, at His Majesty's Theatre, kindly lent by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, the operatic students of the Royal College of Music gave an excellent performance of Gluck's "Alcestis," originally produced in Vienna in December 1767. It must be confessed that Gluck has grown old-fashioned at the present day, although his "Orfeo" has still considerable charm; but in his day Gluck, like Wagner in ours, did much to reform operatic abuses and to make dramatic music popular. To most of the

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audience, I have no doubt, "Alcestis" was merely a curiosity in the way of operatic performance, but great praise was due to the clever students.

I have seen many representations of "The Taming of the Shrew," but I enjoyed that at the Adelphi as much as any, if not more, for it was taken briskly and without dragging. At the end of every act the delighted audience gave hearty shouts of approval, and the principals were admirable; Mr. Oscar Asche seemed the identical actor for the part. He has never played with such spirit and power; when Petruchio actually carried Katherine off the stage the audience were taken by storm. They cheered magnificently. It was not only *new* "business," but good "business." Miss Lily Brayton was delightful as the heroine, and when she appeared as the tamed shrew her acting was exquisite.

MRS. GILBERT.

The Well-Known Actress, who has Just Died in New York at the Age of Eighty-Four.

THE BOHEMIAN CONCERT PROMOTED BY THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE STAFF IN AID OF THEIR SICK AND PROVIDENT FUND: SPECIAL "P.I.P." SKETCHES AT THE PORTMAN ROOMS LAST MONDAY.

Last week I spoke of "Charley's Aunt" reverting to the author, Mr. Brandon Thomas, and that gentleman has lost no time in turning the circumstance to account, for he has revived this evergreen piece at the Comedy Theatre, and "Charley's Aunt" seems likely to enjoy the longest run on record.

Mr. Carl Hentschel spoke out very emphatically on Sunday last respecting the first-night reception of Miss Nethersole. He said, "No good play was ever damned by 'booing,' and no bad play will ever be turned into a success by the unintelligent applause of a gathering of dunderheads."

Mr. Robert Arthur has taken another Christmas venture in hand. He has secured the Grand, Fulham, and on Christmas Eve intends to open with a pantomime, "The Forty Thieves." Mr Arthur will soon be recognised as the principal pantomime purveyor. The Prompter.

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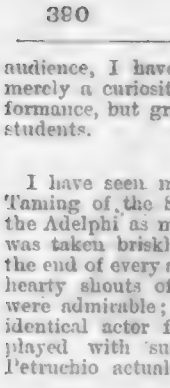

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MEN AND WOMEN

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"P.I.P." Farmer and Gardener.

A Note on Sheep.

THE Wensleydale variety of sheep, a specimen of which is illustrated, should suit my correspondent who writes from an address in Dorset, for, in some respects, the North-east of Yorkshire, in which Wensleydale is situate, resembles his part of the country. There is a ready market for the breed, and at most of the big shows the Wensleydale is provided with classification. As regards dipping, sheep of every breed and in all countries are liable to become affected with parasites, and it is therefore necessary for their welfare to keep them as clean as possible. The question then arises as to the proper season and method of accomplishing this very desirable purpose. In ordinary circumstances, dipping once a year will have a beneficial effect, although to ensure complete success the operation should be performed twice a year, if possible. In autumn the insects are, for the most part, fully developed, and therefore more easily killed. The hard skin in which the ova of the "ked" is enclosed renders destruction in that state both difficult and uncertain. But as most of the eggs are

WENSLEYDALE RAM.

laid and hatched during the summer season, the full benefit of dipping in the autumn is then secured. They should not be dipped during cold weather, after the sheep have been shorn being the favourite time with many breeders.

On Abutilons.

The plant of which I give an Illustration, the abutilon, may be induced to bloom all through the year in a greenhouse if planted against a wall with a free root-run of rich soil. Its many colours, white, pink, terra-cotta, crimson, and yellow, make it very popular. As a matter of fact, they are difficult to keep within bounds if planted against a wall, growing so tall and so strongly that it becomes

ABUTILONS.

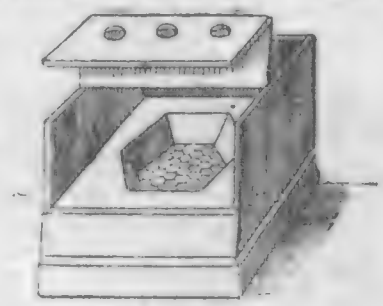
necessary to prune them severely each year in spring. These plants are nearly hardy, and will occasionally survive in a sheltered corner of a Devonshire garden if planted out against a sunny wall in May; they are therefore excellent plants for a cool greenhouse, only needing plenty of nourishment to do well there. As they are gross-feeding and thirsty plants, they quickly exhaust the soil in a pot, and then drop their leaves and look miserable; but small specimens can be placed in the border (with rich soil) in May for the summer months, where they will grow strong and be found to be covered with buds in the autumn. Their roots should then be cut round, and raised a few days later, giving them rather large pots and a compost which may be half loam and half hot-bed material, with abundance of water. They will then bloom throughout the winter in a warm conservatory, and can be cut back in May, planting them out again in the border. The tops then removed will strike root readily in a shady corner of the greenhouse. Abutilon Swavitzi is usually grown for the beauty of its foliage, which is variegated with white; A. igneum is a handsome dwarf variety with deep red flowers, and A. vexillarium is still smaller, a pretty little plant, with tassel-like blossoms in red, yellow, and white, and variegated foliage. A hardy abutilon, which does well in the garden, is A. vitifolium, with glaucous foliage and white flowers 4 in. across; in the shelter of a south wall this plant will probably do well in any part of England, and it is handsome and distinct, growing to the height of 6 ft. or more.

Pruning: Its Use and Abuse.

Cutting away the top of the tree in order to balance the loss sustained by root-removal is all rubbish, and is a custom based upon theory only, says a writer in the *Market Gardener*. The tree that is planted and is left intact will in spring open out the buds first that are the most easily opened at any time—namely, those that are found at the extremities of the twigs and branches. If, on the other hand, the tree has been pruned, then the very dormant and small buds situated at the base of the twigs and shoots will have to be pushed into growth. This will require greater effort on the part of the tree, and there not being root enough the growth will, in the majority of cases, start late and weak, and remain so all the season; and, in consequence, the trees will make little progress below ground. In the case of the tree that is left unpruned, the buds at the points, starting easily, develop leaves, and no sooner are leaves developed than there is a call to the roots; and if the tree were lifted early in the season, and the wounded roots have healed, then at once, in answer to the demand of the leaves on the terminals above, new root fibres are formed, and leaf development above ground is helped forward. The more it is helped the more it demands, and the result is that when autumn winds and early frosts clear off the foliage the labour remains, or rather the result of it, in a fine, healthy root system below ground. Now the pruner comes along, a man of nerve and ability, and cuts deep down to dormant buds that, owing to removal and non-pruning the first season, had their animation suspended for a year. The pruner now cuts back to these in a surgeon-like manner. The result in the next growing season is that the abundant root causes an abundant growth, and the future of the trees is assured, provided, of course, common-sense rules in the after-treatment. So we say, Don't prune your trees the first season, but prune hard the second.

A Hatching-Box.

A simple but very effective contrivance, of which I give an Illustration, is a patent hatching-box, only lately placed on the market. The space immediately between the bottom of the suspended nest and the earth must always be clear, and quite free from packing of any sort; but in cold weather pack well all round the two walls. See that the spot is quite level before arranging the nest-box, first breaking up and smoothing the earth if necessary, and in



A HATCHING-BOX.

cold weather slightly banking up around the bottom rim. Never use straw for the nest, but just enough hay or litter for the purpose.

Answers to Correspondents.

"J. D." (Dudley).—Write to Bradford and Co., High Holborn, London.

"T."—The address is "Tempsford, Sandy, Beds"; Miss Rilot has bought the business of Mr. Lee.

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N.B.—The "*P.I.P.* Farmer" will be pleased to reply to rural questions sent to him through the Editor of *The Penny Illustrated Paper*, 198, Strand, W.C.

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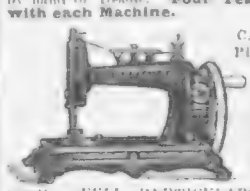

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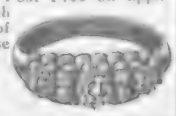

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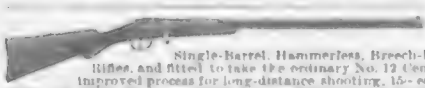

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WAR AND ITS MISERIES · A MILITARY "PRESS-GANG" IN RUSSIA FORCING A RESERVIST TO REJOIN HIS REGIMENT FIGHTING IN MANCHURIA

"P.I.P." PLAYGOER.

"THE White Cat," at Drury Lane, is in many respects different from the average Drury Lane pantomime. It is both pathetic and significant that the loss of poor Dan Leno should also mean the absence of that preponderating music-hall element which at one time was the chief feature in these productions. Personally I rejoice in the change, and consider it far more wholesome as well as more entertaining as Christmas fare. The authors have made the most of the fairy-story of "The White Cat" as a disguised Princess, and, of course, the principal Boy will be the young Prince who breaks the charm, and rescues the beautiful Princess, who, when the supreme moment of her deliverance arrives, will be seen in a flaming chariot drawn by sea-horses. So much for the heroine; but there will be ample pantomimic and grotesque incidents to gratify the most craving juvenile appetite. Indeed, it will not surprise me if most of my young friends say that "The White Cat" surpasses everything they have seen at Drury Lane. I do not remember that there was a donkey in the original story. No matter! There will be a donkey in this instance, and a right merry donkey too. The principal figures will be sustained by first-rate performers. For instance, Johnny Danvers will be seen as King Ivory; Mr. Harry Randall will represent King Asbestos, "a fairy retired from business"; Mr. Hugh Ward appears as a monkey and beats the theory of Darwin altogether, for instead of developing into a man during thousands of years, the transformation takes place during Boxing Night, and in face of the audience, so that science and fun will be blended—probably for the first time—on the stage of the National Theatre. Miss Macdonald, said to be a most charming young lady, is the furry heroine, afterwards Princess, and the scenery will be absolutely gorgeous.

Tolstoy's sombre drama, "The Powers of Darkness," first performed in 1893 at St. Petersburg, is slowly making its way from the Russian capital to other European cities. It has reached Berlin and Paris, but as yet English managers seem shy of the realistic horrors of Tolstoy, which Mr. Laurence Irving says will surpass in intensity every previous stage production. It is intended to show the "Powers of Darkness" in every possible combination, and will be relieved at last by a gleam of human goodness to prevent the audience sinking into an absolutely pessimistic mood.

Photo. Foulsham and Banfield.

MISS MILLIE LEGARDE.

Photo. Foulsham and Banfield.

MISS CONSTANCE COLLIER.

On Tuesday, at the Savoy, Mr. Brookfield's dramatic version of Leoncavallo's tragic opera "Pagliacci" was announced, with Mr. Charles Warner as the deceived husband, a part almost reminding the playgoer of Othello.

After a prosperous run of exactly a year, "The Orchid," at the Gaiety, has reached its second edition, and on Dec. 1 appeared with new dresses, new dances, new songs, and a general air of freshness and fascination which will probably give this diverting musical piece another year of vitality or even more.

The next new theatre to be erected in London will be on a site immediately in front of the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. The neighbourhood will soon be remarkable for theatres, as already there are the newly built Lyceum, the nearly completed Coliseum, the new theatre in Aldwych, and there is rumour of yet another new theatre not far from Drury Lane.

His Majesty's Theatre closes after the matinée on the 21st, to reopen on the following Monday evening. On Thursday, Jan. 19, Mr. Tree will revive "Much Ado About Nothing," with himself and Miss Winifred Emery in the principal characters. There will be some striking innovations in the stage management, and the costumes are being designed by Mr. Byam Shaw. The Titian period is chosen, and as the incidental music is intended to be a prominent feature, Mr. Raymond Roze is busily engaged in making a selection from the music of the time. In fact, there is every promise of the revival of "Much Ado About Nothing" being one of the most important of modern stage representations

On Friday last, at His Majesty's Theatre, kindly lent by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, the operatic students of the Royal College of Music gave an excellent performance of Gluck's "Alcestis," originally produced in Vienna in December 1767. It must be confessed that Gluck has grown old-fashioned at the present day, although his "Orfeo" has still considerable charm; but in his day Gluck, like Wagner in ours, did much to reform operatic abuses and to make dramatic music popular. To most of the

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audience, I have no doubt, "Alcestis" was merely a curiosity in the way of operatic performance, but great praise was due to the clever students.

I have seen many representations of "The Taming of the Shrew," but I enjoyed that at the Adelphi as much as any, if not more, for it was taken briskly and without dragging. At the end of every act the delighted audience gave hearty shouts of approval, and the principals were admirable; Mr. Oscar Asche seemed the identical actor for the part. He has never played with such spirit and power; when Petruchio actually carried Katherine off the stage the audience were taken by storm. They cheered magnificently. It was not only *new* "business," but good "business." Miss Lily Brayton was delightful as the heroine, and when she appeared as the tamed shrew her acting was exquisite.

MRS. GILBERT,

THE WELL-KNOWN ACTRESS, WHO HAS JUST DIED IN NEW YORK AT THE AGE OF EIGHTY-FOUR.

THE BOHEMIAN CONCERT PROMOTED BY THE ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE STAFF IN AID OF THEIR SICK AND PROVIDENT FUND: SPECIAL "P.I.P." SKETCHES AT THE PORTMAN ROOMS LAST MONDAY.

Last week I spoke of "Charley's Aunt" reverting to the author, Mr. Brandon Thomas, and that gentleman has lost no time in turning the circumstance to account, for he has revived this evergreen piece at the Comedy Theatre, and "Charley's Aunt" seems likely to enjoy the longest run on record.

Mr. Carl Hentschel spoke out very emphatically on Sunday last respecting the first-night reception of Miss Nethersole. He said, "No good play was ever damned by 'booing,' and no bad play will ever be turned into a success by the unintelligent applause or a gathering of dunderheads."

Mr. Robert Arthur has taken another Christmas venture in hand. He has secured the Grand, Fulham, and on Christmas Eve intends to open with a pantomime, "The Forty Thieves." Mr. Arthur will soon be recognised as the principal pantomime purveyor. THE PROMPTER.

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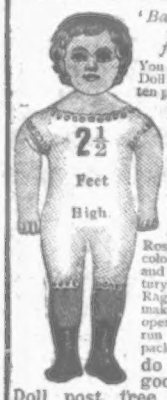

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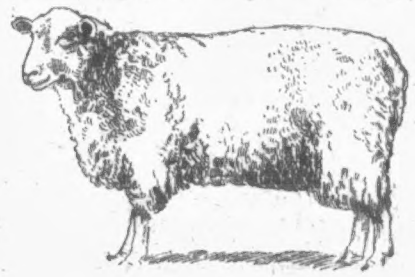
"P.I.P." Farmer and Gardener.

A Note on Sheep.

THE Wensleydale variety of sheep, a specimen of which is illustrated, should suit my correspondent who writes from an address in Dorset, for, in some respects, the North-east of Yorkshire, in which Wensleydale is situate, resembles his part of the country. There is a ready market for the breed, and at most of the big shows the Wensleydale is provided with classification. As regards dipping, sheep of every breed and in all countries are liable to become affected with parasites, and it is therefore necessary for their welfare to keep them as clean as possible. The question then arises as to the proper season and method of accomplishing this very desirable purpose. In ordinary circumstances, dipping once a year will have a beneficial effect, although to ensure complete success the operation should be performed twice a year, if possible. In autumn the insects are, for the most part, fully developed, and therefore more easily killed. The hard skin in which the ova of the "keel" is enclosed renders destruction in that state both difficult and uncertain. But as most of the eggs are



WENSLEYDALE RAM.

laid and hatched during the summer season, the full benefit of dipping in the autumn is then secured. They should not be dipped during cold weather, after the sheep have been shorn being the favourite time with many breeders.

On Abutilons.

The plant of which I give an Illustration, the abutilon, may be induced to bloom all through the year in a greenhouse if planted against a wall with a free root-run of rich soil. Its many colours, white, pink, terra-cotta, crimson, and yellow, make it very popular. As a matter of fact, they are difficult to keep within bounds if planted against a wall, growing so tall and so strongly that it becomes

ABUTILONS.

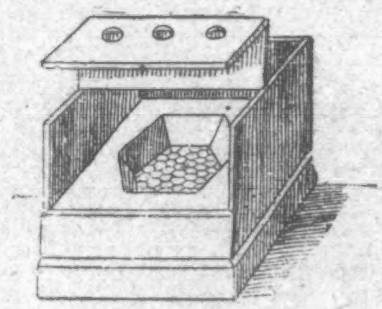
necessary to prune them severely each year in spring. These plants are nearly hardy, and will occasionally survive in a sheltered corner of a Devonshire garden if planted out against a sunny wall in May; they are therefore excellent plants for a cool greenhouse, only needing plenty of nourishment to do well there. As they are gross-feeding and thirsty plants, they quickly exhaust the soil in a pot, and then drop their leaves and look miserable; but small specimens can be placed in the border (with rich soil) in May for the summer months, where they will grow strong and be found to be covered with buds in the autumn. Their roots should then be cut round, and raised a few days later, giving them rather large pots and a compost which may be half loam and half hot-bed material, with abundance of water. They will then bloom throughout the winter in a warm conservatory, and can be cut back in May, planting them out again in the border. The tops then removed will strike root readily in a shady corner of the greenhouse. Abutilon Swavitzi is usually grown for the beauty of its foliage, which is variegated with white; A. igneum is a handsome dwarf variety with deep red flowers, and A. vexillarium is still smaller, a pretty little plant, with tassel-like blossoms in red, yellow, and white, and variegated foliage. A hardy abutilon, which does well in the garden, is A. vitifolium, with glaucous foliage and white flowers 4 in. across; in the shelter of a south wall this plant will probably do well in any part of England, and it is handsome and distinct, growing to the height of 6 ft. or more.

Pruning: Its Use and Abuse.

Cutting away the top of the tree in order to balance the loss sustained by root-removal is all rubbish, and is a custom based upon theory only, says a writer in the *Market Gardener*. The tree that is planted and is left intact will in spring open out the buds first that are the most easily opened at any time—namely, those that are found at the extremities of the twigs and branches. If, on the other hand, the tree has been pruned, then the very dormant and small buds situated at the base of the twigs and shoots will have to be pushed into growth. This will require greater effort on the part of the tree, and there not being root enough the growth will, in the majority of cases, start late and weak, and remain so all the season; and, in consequence, the trees will make little progress below ground. In the case of the tree that is left unpruned, the buds at the points, starting easily, develop leaves, and no sooner are leaves developed than there is a call to the roots; and if the tree were lifted early in the season, and the wounded roots have healed, then at once, in answer to the demand of the leaves on the terminals above, new root fibres are formed, and leaf development above ground is helped forward. The more it is helped the more it demands, and the result is that when autumn winds and early frosts clear off the foliage the labour remains, or rather the result of it, in a fine, healthy root system below ground. Now the pruner comes along, a man of nerve and ability, and cuts deep down to dormant buds that, owing to removal and non-pruning the first season, had their animation suspended for a year. The pruner now cuts back to these in a surgeon-like manner. The result in the next growing season is that the abundant root causes an abundant growth, and the future of the trees is assured, provided, of course, common-sense rules in the after-treatment. So we say, Don't prune your trees the first season, but prune hard the second.

A Hatching-Box.

A simple but very effective contrivance, of which I give an Illustration, is a patent hatching-box, only lately placed on the market. The space immediately between the bottom of the suspended nest and the earth must always be clear, and quite free from picking of any sort; but in cold weather pack well all round the two walls. See that the spot is quite level before arranging the nest-box, first breaking up and smoothing the earth if necessary, and in



A HATCHING-BOX.

cold weather slightly banking up around the bottom rim. Never use straw for the nest, but just enough hay or litter for the purpose.

Answers to Correspondents.

"J. D." (Dudley).—Write to Bradford and Co., High Holborn, London.

"T."—The address is "Tempaford, Sandy, Beds"; Miss Rilot has bought the business of Mr. Lee.

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N.B.—The "*P.I.P.* Farmer" will be pleased to reply to rural questions sent to him through the Editor of *The Penny Illustrated Paper*, 198, Strand, W.C.

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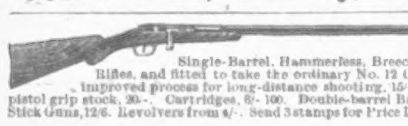

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'What do We Live for, if not to Make Life less difficult for Each Other?'—GEORGE ELIOT.

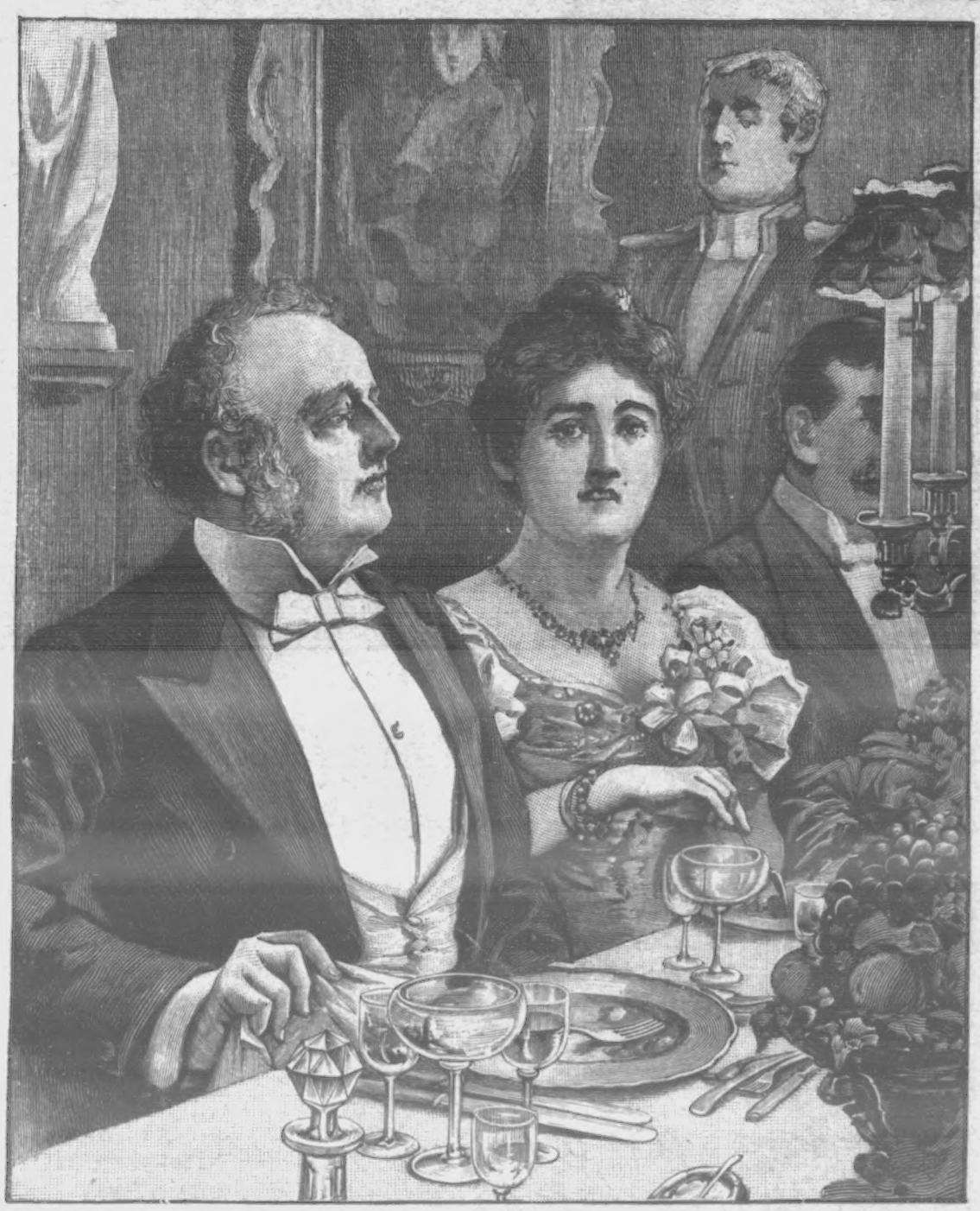
We shut our eyes, the flowers bloom on;
We murmur, but the corn-ears fill;
We choose the shadow, but the sun
That casts it shines behind us still.

And each good thought or action moves the dark world nearer to the sun.—WHITTIER.

LIGHT WHEN THOU ELSE WERT BLIND!

SYMPATHY!

STRENGTH WHEN LIFE'S SURGES RUDEST ROLL.



Millais' Great Xmas Heart!

"Millais himself was occasionally induced to repeat the following anecdote, which is said by a personal friend to be new: I found myself (said the late P.R.A.) seated one evening at a rather grand dinner, next to a very pretty, gushing girl, to whom I had not been introduced. She fired into conversation directly she had finished her soup, and as it was May, began it with the inevitable question, 'I suppose you've been to the Academy?' I replied that I had. 'And did you notice the Millais'? Didn't you think they were awful daubs? I can't imagine how such things ever get hung——!' She was going on gaily in the same strain, while I sat silent, when suddenly the amused smiles of those around her and the significant hush brought her to a sudden *stop*. She coloured rather painfully, and whispered to me in a frightened voice, 'For heaven's sake, what have I done? Have I said anything dreadful? Do tell me.' 'Not now,' I replied, 'eat your dinner in peace, and I'll tell you by-and-by.' She did so, rather miserably, vainly trying to extract from me at intervals what the matter was, and when the dessert came I filled up her glass with champagne, and told her to gulp it down *very quickly* when I counted three. She obeyed without protest, and I took the opportunity when she *couldn't speak. I grasped her hand and said, 'I am Millais; let's be Friends.'*"

MORAL:—*Never to blend our Pleasure or our Pride with Sorrow of the Meanest Thing that Feels.*—WORDSWORTH.

And such is Human Life—So Gliding On; It Glimmers like a Meteor, and is Gone.

WHAT HIGHER AIM CAN MAN ATTAIN THAN CONQUEST OVER HUMAN PAIN?

IMPORTANT TO TRAVELLERS AT HOME AND ABROAD.—"Did the world stand still or did the generation that is to be benefit very fully by the experience gathered by their predecessors, but little necessity would exist for dwelling upon the special recommendations of ENO'S world-famous 'FRUIT SALT.' *It is not too much to say that its merits have been published, tested, and approved literally from pole to pole, and that its cosmopolitan popularity to-day presents one of the most signal illustrations of commercial enterprise to be found in our trading records.* In view of the constant and steady influx of new buyers into all the markets of the world, it is impossible to rest on laurels, however arduously won or freshly gathered; and for this reason I have pleasure in again, though briefly, directing the attention of readers of this journal to the genuine qualities possessed by ENO'S 'FRUIT SALT.' *Residents in the fever-haunted regions to be found in some of our colonial possessions, travellers at home and abroad, dwellers in the tropics, the bon vivant* no less than the man to whom the recommendation, 'Eat and be merry,' is a sarcasm and a gibe—one and all may, with advantage to themselves, be reminded of a remedy that meets their special requirements with a success approaching the miraculous."—*European Mail.*

ENO'S 'FRUIT SALT' rectifies the Stomach and makes the Liver laugh with joy by natural means. (Or, in other words, Gentleness does more than Violence.) Its universal success proves the truth of the above assertion.

MORAL FOR ALL—

'I need not be missed if another succeed me,
To reap down those fields which in spring I have sown.
He who ploughed and who sowed is not missed by the reaper,
He is only remembered by what he has done.'

STIMULANTS.—CONGESTION OF THE LIVER.—Experience shows that Acidulated Sherbet masked with Sugar, Hazardous Brain Tipples, or any form of Pick-me-up, Porter, Mild Ales, Port Wine, Dark Sherries, Sweet Champagne, Liqueurs, and Brandies, are all very apt to disagree, while Light White Wines, and Gin or Old Whisky, largely diluted with pure Mineral Water, will be found the least objectionable. ENO'S 'FRUIT SALT' is PARTICULARLY ADAPTED for ANY constitutional WEAKNESS of the LIVER. It possesses the power of reparation where digestion has been disturbed or lost, and PLACES the INVALID on the RIGHT TRACK to HEALTH.

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CAUTION.—*Examine the Capsule and see that it is marked ENO'S 'FRUIT SALT,' otherwise you have the sincerest form of flattery—IMITATION.*

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